

COBRA Pre-use Procedures – JFD Guidance Note

Members' attention is brought to the recent Guidance Note issued by JFD concerning changes to the pre-use procedures for the Compact Bailout Rebreathing Apparatus (COBRA). The COBRA manual will be updated to reflect these changes.

For convenience, the Guidance Note has been attached overleaf as an appendix to this document, but it can also be found online at:

https://www.jfdglobal.com/files/6316/3724/2051/DB500-PGN-17_RO_COBRA_Advisory_Notice_Pre-use_procedures.pdf

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COBRA Guidance Note

Background

The recommended pre-use procedures in the COBRA manual are being modified following operational feedback from some users.



ISSUE 1

Pre-use procedures

The pre-use procedure in the COBRA manual includes an instruction to breathe from the COBRA set for a period of time before leaving the diving bell. While this procedure will prove the set is functioning correctly and that a scrubber has been installed, it will necessitate the COBRA set being removed from the system for hygiene procedures before re-use.

As users have become more familiar with the COBRA set, they have developed their own procedures to ensure that the COBRA set is ready to dive, without requiring to breathe from the set. Some of the users' own clients have subsequently queried the departure from the procedure in the COBRA manual.



SOLUTION

JFD's stance that dive procedure is the responsibility of the user. We recognise the need for a more practical pre-dive procedure and provide the following information to assist users in the development of such a procedure.

- Set activation can be confirmed by turning the activation knob on the helmet, partially deploying the mouthpiece. After the initial short blast of gas from the relief valves and mouthpiece, the steady flow of gas through the lee-jet can be heard. It should also be possible to feel a small flow of gas on the diver's face. It should be noted that divers attending the JFD COBRA course are instructed in this technique.
- If the set is now deactivated, the rotowink should return to green.
- There is nothing inherent in COBRA that forces the user to insert a scrubber cartridge. This task must be managed by the user's procedure.



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- The only thing that is indicated by a green rotowink is that the set is positively pressurised (with umbilical gas). It does not indicate that there is gas in the cylinders, that a scrubber is fitted or that the set will activate.
- If the COBRA cylinders are turned on, then turned off (for any reason), the contents gauge will continue to show the cylinder pressure until the set is activated, when the indicated pressure will drop quickly. Users must not take a high reading on the contents gauge to indicate that the cylinders are turned on. Again, this task must be managed by the user's procedure.

It is JFD's intention to modify the manual at the next revision to remove the instruction for an experienced user to breathe from the COBRA set before leaving the diving bell.

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