

Pre-wear Lifejacket Checks



Pre-wear checks for user

1. Inspect the lifejacket cover material for wear, pulled threads, cuts, holes, abrasion or contamination.
2. Inspect the webbing for damaged stitching, pulled threads, cuts, holes or fraying.
3. Ensure the zip or Velcro closure is intact and in good condition.
4. Check the buckle and side adjusters are working and in good condition.

Note: If you are unsure, return your lifejacket to a service centre approved by the manufacturer.

For lifejackets fitted with an operating head that has an indicator panel, check the two indicator panels are green (there should be a clear panel on the cover, maybe under a zipped section to view the panel). The lifejacket does not need to be opened unless one or both panels are red.



If the lifejacket has another style of operating head, the lifejacket will need to be opened to check the cylinder and automatic cartridge.

To open the lifejacket either:

1. Locate the quick burst point (usually a different colour) and start to open the lifejacket. It is designed to fully separate. **Do not** run the zipper back over both sides of the zip.
2. Locate the webbing burst point on a chain zip closure and start to open the lifejacket. It is designed so that the zipper will run back over both sides of the zip.
3. On a Velcro closure, the lifejacket can be opened just to access the operating head.

Carefully unfold part of the bladder (if applicable) to be able to get to the operating head.

The whole bladder **does not need** to be unpacked (use clothing pegs to hold in place if needed).

Co2 cylinders in lifejackets can work themselves loose and should be checked for tightness.

This is one of the most important if not the most important check to be made.

On an automatic capsule check that the green disc (UM Mk5) or green band (Halkey Roberts) is in place, if red a new capsule or yellow super bobbin will need to be installed before the lifejacket is worn.



Check that the green indicator clip is in place, if missing a new indicator clip will need to be installed before the lifejacket is worn.





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Check the cylinders for corrosion or pitting. If a cylinder is corroded, the seal has been dented or been fired, a new cylinder will need to be installed before the lifejacket is repacked. Also check any areas of material that were in contact with a rusty cylinder - the fabric may have been damaged.

Carry rearming kits for each type of lifejacket you have onboard. If a lifejacket is accidentally inflated, you will be able to get it ready for use.



Empty cylinder.
Seal not fully pierced.

Storage & Care

Storage of Lifejackets

- Lifejackets shall be stored in a clean dry area.
- Ideally lifejackets should be hung up.
- Do not store near direct heat or sunlight.
- If wet, open and open bladder out, hang up and allow to dry naturally with cylinder and capsule removed.
- Do not store in an unventilated bag.
- Contaminants (oil, diesel fuel or thinners) may be sponged off IMMEDIATELY with a mild soapy solution. Dry naturally.

Warning: Do NOT use detergents or solvents.

- Mud can be removed with a stiff (NOT WIRE) brush when dry.



Donning a lifejacket

Different types of lifejackets will have different entry methods and slightly different methods of adjustments. Fastenings will be either zips, buckles or straps or a combination of these.

Put on as a jacket or over your head. Next do up buckles/zips and tighten/adjust straps.

You need to make sure it is quite a snug fit while still being comfortable for you. If it is not comfortable it may put you off wearing it, too loose and it will ride up if you go into the water.

To check the fit, ball your hand and slide under the waistbelt, your balled hand should just fit under the waistbelt.