



Department of Transport
An Roinn Iompair



This notice was amended on 20 October 2009

Marine Notice No. 08 of 2009

*NOTICE TO ALL SEAFARERS, OWNERS, OPERATORS, REPAIRERS AND SUPPLIERS
INVOLVED WITH COMMERCIAL AND PLEASURE CRAFT*

Counterfeit Hydrostatic Release Units

It has come to the attention of the Maritime Safety Directorate that counterfeit HAMMAR hydrostatic release units (HRU) have been offered for sale in some parts of the world. The attached notice from HAMMAR explains how to identify genuine HAMMAR hydrostatic release units.

In addition, the second attached notice from HAMMAR explains that all H20 items produced as from 24/02/2009 include a new security marking, as well as a new position for the serial number and production date.

The Maritime Safety Directorate is not aware of any counterfeit units having been offered for sale in Ireland. If counterfeit units are found for sale in Ireland the Gardaí and the Maritime Safety Directorate should be notified. Counterfeit HRUs must not be used under any circumstances as they cannot be guaranteed to operate correctly and may hamper the automatic release and inflation of a liferaft in emergency conditions.

Director General,
Maritime Safety Directorate,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.

02/03/2009

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact
The Marine Survey Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2., tel: +353 1 678 3400
For information in relation to technical specification/type approval of radio equipment
contact the Radio Surveyors, tel: +353 1 678 2363/2364/2365/2367.
For general enquiries please contact the Maritime Safety Division tel: +353-1-678 3418
Any enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2
email: marinenotices@transport.ie or visit us at: www.transport.ie

PRESS RELEASE 2008-12-16

CM HAMMAR, GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN

SAFETY ALERT – DANGEROUS H2O FAKE COPIES!

It has recently come to our attention that someone is producing fake copies of our Hydrostatic Release Unit, the Hammar H2O. To an untrained eye, the copy is almost identical to the original product, with Hammar's logo and address on the labels. The fake might look almost like the original product, but there is one very important difference: **the copy does not work!**

We have tested several of the copies. Not a single one of them worked properly according to SOLAS' specification – **the fake H2O will definitely not release a life raft or an Epirb.** We see this as a very serious situation. There can be a number of ships at sea that are sailing with fake Hydrostatic Release Units. If any of these ships were to sink, there will definitely be no life rafts or Epirbs that will help to rescue the seafarers in danger!

How can you quickly check that you have the original Hammar H2O?

- Always purchase your products through approved distributors or authorised service points for life rafts and Epirbs
- Make sure that you receive the Hammar multilingual product manual and a raft label with each unit for life raft H2O or Hammar marking instruction for Epirb H2O. (Pic 1)
- If you check on the underside of the Hammar H2O you should be able to find 5 (five) fabrication marks on all units produced since April 2006. Units produced before that date have only 2 (two) fabrication marks. (Pic 2).
- The serial number and production date can always be verified by contacting CM Hammar at info@cmhammar.com. (Pic 2)
- The fabrication mark on the upper side of the unit must always point directly towards the rope. (Pic 3)

(Pic 1)



H2O unit with the multilingual product manual and raft label.

(Pic 2)
Serial number



Fabrication Mark

(Pic 3)



Fabrication Mark

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact us.

HAMMAR®

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Important information on Hammar H20: New solution for better safety

During the end of 2008 it came to our attention that **dangerous fake copies of our Hydrostatic release unit, the Hammar H20, had entered the market.** We immediately issued a Safety Alert to warn about the risks in using these fake copies. We also provided a number of ways to check the authenticity of products used. All our customers were offered the possibility to check the serial numbers through our website.

Due to the seriousness of this matter, we have developed a **new solution** to make sure that you enjoy the safety and functionality of the original Hammar H20. **All H20 items produced as from 24.02.2009 include a new, unique Holospot® security marking.** This marking will help you distinguish the original Hammar quality from dangerous fake copies. In addition we have also moved the serial number and production date to a new position next to the Holospot® security marking.

Here is what you should look for:

Every new Hammar H20 features a 5 x 10 mm silver black Holospot® label with a six number alphanumeric code, e. g. 0000ZW. Above the code the Hammar logo can be seen.

Please check that:

- The Holospot® shimmers in rainbow colours when put under direct light.
- The alphanumeric code is different on each product.
- The serial number and production date can be found to the left of the Holospot®.

Serial number and production date



Holospot with Hammar Logo and alphanumeric code

Note:

As from 24.02.2009: The new security marking can be found on each original Hammar H20 produced as from 24.02.2009.

Before 24.02.2009: To check the authenticity of H20 products produced before 24.02.2009, we recommend that you read the instructions from the Safety Alert at www.cmhammar.com

For your safety:

- Always purchase your Hammar products through approved distributors or authorised service points for life rafts and Epirbs.
- Make sure that you receive the Hammar multilingual product manual and a raft label with each unit (for life raft H20) or Hammar marking instruction (for Epirb H20).

You can find additional information about the new Holospot security marking or read the previous Safety Alert at www.cmhammar.com