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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 02-08

June 11, 2008

RECALL OF SWITLIK LIFE RAFTS

The U.S Coast Guard has learned of a defect that may result in Switlik Marine Life Rafts failing to inflate in an emergency. Switlik Parachute Company is recalling all of its inflatable life rafts due to a malfunction of the inflation valves.

The U.S. Coast Guard strongly recommends that all vessel owners and operators who have Switlik Life Rafts onboard their vessels immediately have their life rafts serviced by an authorized servicing station.

Further details of the recall are listed in the Switlik Parachute Company Safety Alert and Recall bulletin on the following page. A listing of Switlik authorized service centers is located at www.switlik.com. Operators of U.S. inspected vessels; commercial fishing vessels and uninspected passenger vessels of at least 100 gross tons are reminded that they must have their rafts serviced by a USCG accepted life raft servicing facility. A complete list of these facilities can be found on the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Information Exchange website. <http://psix.uscg.mil/LifeRaftSearch/Default.aspx>.

For additional information or clarification regarding the Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please contact LTJG Kenneth McCain at the above number or address.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald M. Swanson". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gerald M. Swanson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection



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PARACHUTE COMPANY

Established 1920



Sub: **SAFETY ALERT** and RECALL
Ref: Service Information Bulletin No. SIB-08144

IF YOU ARE THE OWNER OF A MARINE LIFE RAFT MANUFACTURED BY
SWITLIK PARACHUTE COMPANY,
IT MAY HAVE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH THE INFLATION SYSTEM.
THIS IS NOT OBVIOUS AND COULD CAUSE FALSE RELIANCE ON A LIFE RAFT
THAT, IF NEEDED, MAY NOT INFLATE AND FUNCTION AS A LIFE SAVING DEVICE.

We have had reports recently from two Life Raft Service Stations of Switlik Life Raft inflation valves failing to operate properly and discharge the gas from the CO₂ cylinder into the life raft. These malfunctions occurred during performance of annual service and standard 5-year operational and inflation testing.

Inspection of these valves indicated clear signs of changes in the consistency of the lubricant and a degradation of the piston O-ring material. This resulted in the O-rings adhering to the pistons and valve bodies, causing the inflation valves to malfunction.

We are implementing a corrective action that mandates replacement of the inflation valve with a valve that does not utilize this O-ring material and lubricant combination. While the instances and percentages of improper inflation system operation are relatively small, this issue directly affects whether or not a life raft will properly inflate in case of an emergency. We feel that this valve replacement should occur at your earliest practical opportunity.

To facilitate the inflation valve Service Bulletin in the safest and most expeditious manner for you, we will be replacing, at no charge to you, the existing S-2630 inflation valve/s on your life raft. (You are responsible for complying with any normal recommended service procedures and transportation of the Life Raft to and from the service facility.)

YOUR SAFETY is of the utmost importance to us! Please contact Switlik Parachute Company at (609) 587-3300 or go to our web site, (www.switlik.com), for a listing of our Service Stations to schedule the servicing of your life raft and replacement of the inflation valve. We regret this occurrence and the inconvenience it causes you. Although the probability that your life raft will not work as designed is small, we are addressing this issue by erring on the side of safety.

We thank you for your patience while we work to make your time on the water safer.

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