

# Maritime New Zealand Guidelines

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SAFETY BULLETIN ISSUE 19 – MARCH 2009

## FAKE HAMMAR® H2O HYDROSTATIC RELEASE UNITS

This safety bulletin is for:

- vessel owners, operators and crew
- marine surveyors
- safety equipment companies
- liferaft servicing companies
- classification societies
- safe ship management companies.

### Purpose

To alert the maritime industry to the risks to safety posed by the existence of fake Hammar® H2O Hydrostatic Release Units (HRUs).

### Key issues

On 16 December 2008 CM Hammar, a safety equipment company, issued a press release titled "Safety Alert – Dangerous H2O Fake Copies!". Near identical fake copies of the H2O HRU have been found fitted to liferafts and EPIRBS (emergency position indicating radio beacons). The company has tested several fake HRUs and found that they **will not work**.

The press release, plus instructions on how to detect the fake HAMMAR H2O HRUs, is attached to this bulletin. For more information, visit the Hammar® website <http://www.cmhammar.com/News.aspx>.

### Recommendations

- If you have a liferaft or EPIRB on your vessel that is fitted with a HAMMAR® HRU we recommend that you check the HRUs immediately. If any are a HAMMAR® H2O you should follow the instructions in CM Hammar's press release to determine if the unit is genuine or fake.
- If the HRU is fake, the unit should be **removed and replaced immediately**.
- If you are uncertain if your HRU is fake, contact your safe ship management company or classification society.

### Further information

For more information please contact Maritime New Zealand's Wellington office:  
Phone: 0508 22 55 22 or (04) 473 0111  
Fax: (04) 494 88901  
Email: [enquiries@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@maritimenz.govt.nz)

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?

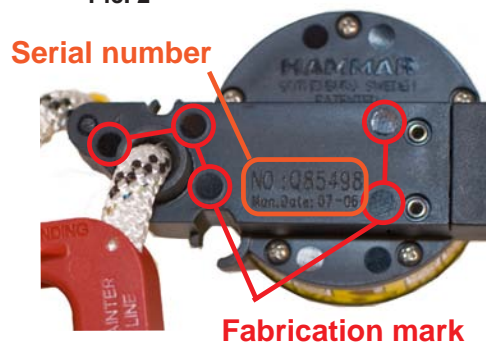
- Always purchase your products through approved distributors or authorised service points for life rafts and Epirbs
- Make sure that you receive the Hammar multilingual product manual and a raft label with each unit for life raft H2O or Hammar marking instruction for Epirb H2O. (Pic 1)
- If you check 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



Fabrication mark

Pic. 3



Fabrication mark

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

**HAMMAR®**

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**Please spread  
this important  
information to  
all Ships and  
Vessels**

## 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®.

*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](http://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](http://www.cmhammar.com).