

U.S. Coast Guard Recalls

Below is information on U.S. Coast Guard recalls on the following:

- **SOSpenders inflatable life flotation devices**
- **PROSAR Technology life jacket lights**

Review the parts list and, if your inflatable PFD (lifejacket) is on that list, follow the instructions for proper remedy.

If your inflatable PFD's (lifejackets) have not been inspected within the past year, or a cartridge has not been changed, you must do so having due regard for the proper installation of a new cartridge.

The PROSAR Technology lifejacket lights must be replaced. We highly recommend an ACR small strobe light.

From "Boating Safety Circular":

LIFE JACKET RECALL

SOSpenders Corporation of Fruitland, Idaho is recalling approximately 7,200 automatic inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs). Approximately 300 defective Hammar units in one lot of 500 were loaded incorrectly and will not inflate the vest. SOSpenders Corp. has made the decision to recall all Hammar products for 100% safety inspection.

This unit malfunction was discovered by SOSpenders in-house testing and immediately communicated to the appropriate individuals to take corrective action. SOSpenders has received no reports of units malfunctioning. No injuries have been reported.

The PFDs have the brand name SOSpenders. The affected PFDs can be identified by a Yellow Hammar MA1 Manual/Automatic Inflator Cap:

The recall vests include the following items and part numbers:

8030264 STD 38 MILLENIUM-WM 38HSTDM-W (PFD)

8030265 HAR 38 MILLENIUM-WM 38HHARM-W (PFD)

8030266 STD 38 MILLENIUM 38HSTDM (PFD)

8030267 HAR 38 MILLENIUM 38HHARM (PFD)

8030233 REARM 38 AUTO HAMMAR CMH38ARP (ACCESSORY)

8030313 COMMERCIAL VEST SOLAS F1 38CMH (PFD)

8030315 TACT VEST W/POC-AUTO HAM 38HTV/9-CG (PFD)

8030354 MILLENIUM, AUT, LNG, BLK 38HSTDM/7 (PFD)

8030318 PRO 38 MILLENIUM 8HPROM (PFD)

8030268 TACT VEST W/POC-AUTO HAM 38HTV/9 (PFD)

8030316 ULTRA LITE 38 HAMMAR 38HUL/9 (PFD)

Consumers should stop using the vests and immediately:

- 1) Follow the procedures provided by SOS at their website www.sospenders.com and click on “recall.”
- 2) Contact SOSpenders customer service department at 1-800-858-5876 8:00am to 5:00pm PST Monday through Friday for shipping instructions.

SOS, Inc. indicated that approximately 300 defective Hammar inflators in one lot of 500 were assembled incorrectly and will not inflate the PFD with CO2 gas either automatically or manually. Only oral inflation of the PFDs with the incorrectly assembled inflators will provide any buoyancy to the user.

Since there may be a significant risk of drowning if these PFDs are not inflated, SOS, Inc. has made the decision to recall all products using the Hammar inflator for a 100% safety inspection. SOS, Inc. will apply an additional marking on each inflator that passes this inspection.

The Coast Guard points out that this recall demonstrates why it is so **important for consumers to register their inflatable PFDs or any consumer product with the manufacturer**. When a safety recall such as this is necessary, the manufacturer must have a registration on file to effectively contact affected consumers in a timely manner.

Unfortunately it appears that less than five percent (5%) of owners have registered their inflatable PFDs. Therefore the Coast Guard strongly recommends that consumers always fill out and return the consumer registration card; regardless of the product. Such action promotes safety and provides economic protection. Fortunately, it appears that West Marine, which sold most of these PFDs to recreational boaters, can identify about 75 percent (75%) of their customers. The affected PFDs have the brand name SOSPENDERS. These PFDs can be identified by the Yellow Hammar MA1, Manual/Automatic Inflator Cap.

From “Log News Service”:

CG Warns Of Defective Life-Jacket Lights

The U.S. Coast Guard says that it has discovered defective life-jacket lights manufactured by PROSAR Technologies.

In a May 25 safety alert, the Coast Guard announced that it has canceled all approvals for PROSAR Technologies life-jacket and floating water lights.

The Coast Guard said that during recent inspections, several Coast Guard offices have discovered defective life-jacket lights made by PROSAR.

Some of the lights were found with very noticeable deformations due to battery corrosion while others appeared perfectly normal but did not work when tested.

The Coast Guard “strongly recommends” that vessel owners and operators using any of the PROSAR Technologies equipment listed in the safety alert – www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/moa/docs/prosar.htm - replace those items with other CG-approved safety equipment.

A complete list of Coast Guard approved products is posted at <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/Default.aspx>.