

Safety Alert

Gas Inflated Lifejackets

During the 2003 Bell Lawrie Scottish Series, RNLI safety scrutineers checked 100 yachts & found 40 gas powered lifejackets potentially faulty due to loose CO2 cylinders. Check regularly that your cylinder is tightly screwed in, so that the firing pin can pierce the end seal.



For lifejackets using a HAMMAR mechanism with the CO2 cylinder inside the bladder, grip cylinder through the material to check it's fully tightened. HAMMAR recommend checking to be part of the donning procedure.

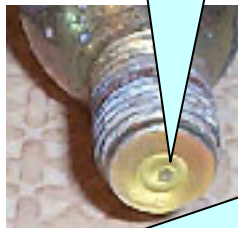


Check the CO2 cylinder is fully tightened. If the CO2 cylinder is corroded, replace it! You don't know when it may begin to leak & corrosion products will damage the bladder.



Check cylinder weight v value stamped on it, to confirm CO2 charge.

Check the CO2 cylinder end seal for damage.



Check lifejacket integrity by orally inflating it at least once per year, preferably more often, and leave it under pressure for a few hours to test for leaks. Inspect CO2 cylinder, inflation tube and webbing strap condition, & the bladder for abrasion damage.

Lifejackets should be serviced annually by a qualified service centre

Forth Yacht Clubs Association - www.fyca.org.uk