

Buoyancy Compensator User's Guide

Buoyancy compensators are constructed from rugged materials with unique features adaptable to advanced underwater environments. The general design characteristics can allow for complete system integration of a number of components achieving high lift capacities, low drag, and increased safety through redundancy. With numerous options today divers can select from multiple styles ranging from jacket, to back inflate, to hybrid, to travel friendly BCD's. Some of these styles allow custom configurations of weight integration, air cell options, utility pockets, trim weight options, and the addition of a stabilizing crotch strap. This equipment is intended for use by individuals with the training and experience to dive these environments safely.

General Precautions & Warnings

- Prior to using any BCD you must receive instruction & certification in SCUBA diving and buoyancy control from a recognized training agency. Use of SCUBA equipment by uncertified or untrained persons (**EVEN under the supervision of a certified diver in their own pool**) is dangerous and can result in injury or death.
- Read the owner's manual before attempting to use your new BC, and become familiar with it first in a controlled environment such as a swimming pool (ours is available) in order to weight yourself properly & to become comfortable with using the many features and adjustments.
- Before every dive perform a complete pre-dive inspection to insure that all components are functioning properly, & no signs of damage or leaks are present. Proper annual maintenance by a certified BCD technician at your local Dive Center will help to insure that your BCD will continue to function properly for many years to come.
- Your BC is not a lift bag. Do not use it to bring heavy objects to the surface. Doing so may cause permanent damage to your BC, & could result in serious injury or death due to embolism or decompression sickness.
- In an emergency such as an out of air situation or uncontrolled descent, it is important to remove and jettison weight immediately. Do not depend solely on using your BC's power inflator to lift you to the surface.
- In the event of an uncontrolled, rapid ascent, it is important to immediately begin venting air from your BC. Continue venting air to slow your ascent rate if neutral buoyancy cannot be reestablished.

- Do not inhale from your oral inflator. The BC may contain harmful contaminants or gasses, which could lead to suffocation or injury.
- Your BC is not a life jacket. It is designed to allow for neutral buoyancy while in a comfortable face down position underwater, and to provide flotation so that you can rest at the surface, but it is not designed to function as a personal flotation device (PFD) and does not meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations for a PFD or life preserver.

Pre-Dive Checks

- Check all fittings & connections for damaged components (cracks, tears, etc.)
- Inflate bladder until the dump valve vents, leave inflated for 30 minutes.
- If dual bladder BC test each bladder separately. (Do not inflate both simultaneously)
- With bladder fully inflated check pull dumps for smooth operation and positive seal.
- Check the security of the weight system prior to entering the water. After entry inspect unit for bubbles indicating leaks.

Warning

Repeated improper use of your oral inflation/deflation mechanism or dump valve assemblies may allow water to enter the BC with a subsequent reduction in buoyancy. Reduced buoyancy can cause a loss of buoyancy control resulting in personal injury or death.

DO NOT attempt to service a malfunctioning piece of equipment. Take it to an authorized certified dealer/technician for repair.