

SUBJECT: Surface Supplied Harness / D-Ring Failure (spot welded)

Affected Military Equipment:

Surface Supplied Harness (SSH) by Aqua Lung America currently in use or unused (new) in stock/storage:

Size 0 = PN769158

Size 1 = PN769161

Size 2 = PN769169

Ref a: NAVSEA Diving Advisory 20-18

Problem:

The SSH has been manufactured with spot welded D-Rings, [PN 12071](#). Two recent reports from an SSH end user indicate failures on D-rings that were sewn into two different SSH manufactured 7 and 10 years ago. These reports cast doubt on the performance of this D-Ring. It is believed, but subject to confirmation by Aqua Lung's Quality Team, that over time and with repeated use in diving operations, the D-Ring spot weld may undergo slow degradation. Although lab testing of this D-Ring and years of operational use on the SSH has proven to be suitably strong, it is prudent at this time to assume, for the sake of divers safety, that the theorized degradation leads to erosion of the spot weld and reduces the breaking strength of the D-Ring.

DANGER: Continued use of the SSH with these spot welded D-Rings can result in Diver injury or death.



Corrective Actions:

NOTE 1: SSH is primarily used by the US Military and to a lesser extent by the commercial diving industry.

NOTE 2: SSH is Approved for Navy Use (ANU) by NAVSEA and listed under Item 2.1.7

1. IAW Ref a; Immediately remove all SSH from service.
2. Aqua Lung will provide a \$960 discount off the purchase of a new SSH with upgraded D-rings.
3. Return procedures for each shipment of SSH:
 - a. Email Aqua Lung America Client Services at: warranty@aqualung.com
 - b. **US Military Only:** Also copy MDV John Hopkins, NAVSEA OOC3 john.d.hopkins1@navy.mil
 - c. In your email include:
 - Primary POC (name/email/ph #)
 - Secondary POC (name/email/ph #)
 - Shipping address (no APO or FPO)
 - *Quantity & size of SSH's returning to Aqua Lung
4. This is a one-for-one offer. The \$960 discount will be applied to the actual number of old harnesses returned, and new harnesses ordered.
5. This offer is in effect till 31 Dec 2022.
6. Your patience is appreciated. New SSH build time is TBD.

* = Refer to image and info below if size is not legible on sewn tag.
 Size 2 has 11 columns of molle on L&R cummerbund
 Size 1 has 7 columns of molle on L&R cummerbund
 Size 0 has 5 columns of molle on L&R cummerbund



For further technical support or to provide input on any of the information presented please contact:

Glen Rubin - Military Diving Program Manager: grubin@aqualung.com

Steve Reilly - Public Safety/Aviation Program Manager: sreilly@aqualung.com