

Aqua Lung America **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

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No. 9

SUBJECT: ABS Octopus Retrofit

Aqua Lung has determined that it is possible, under certain circumstances, for one or both of the exhaust valves on the ABS Octopus, p/n 116920, to become inverted. Inverted means that the edge of the exhaust valve can get lodged between two of the spokes of the seating surface. This could happen during the after-dive rinsing process if the valves are hit with a stream of high-pressure water from a garden hose or if the valves hit the water just right during an entry. It is important to note that valve inversion does not happen during the course of a dive.

The result of having one or both valves inverted is the inability to completely seal out water. This could lead to an aspiration of water, which in turn could lead to panic, injury or death.

To protect the exhaust valve from inverting, Aqua Lung has redesigned the exhaust grid that covers the exhaust valves (see picture). The new exhaust valve can be quickly and easily retrofitted and has no appreciable effect on the exhalation performance of the ABS Octopus.

Currently, Aqualung is still a few weeks away from having sufficient inventories of the new grid for replacement purposes. Once available, Aqualung will send each dealer a sufficient amount of the new grid, free of charge, to cover the number of units that were sold by each dealer. The grids will be sent along with a set of simple instructions on how to perform the retrofit. The estimated time to perform the retrofit is approximately 15 seconds.



Until the time the retrofit can be fully implemented, we ask the dealers to do the following:

1. Stop all sales of ABS until the new grid is in place.
2. Post the accompanying flyer in a prominent place in your store notifying your customers.
3. If you have the ability to contact those customers that purchased an ABS from you, we ask that you would relay this information to them.
4. If your customers would like to continue to use their ABS until such time that the exhaust grids are ready, we ask that you counsel them with the following advice: Prior to your initial descent, test the ABS Octopus in the water to make sure that the exhaust valves are functioning properly. After clearing it, you should get a smooth, dry breath without ingress of water. The valves will not invert during the course of a dive.

Aqualung will be sending notices to all consumers who purchased an ABS Octopus and registered their product on the web or mailed in a warranty card.

We thank you for partnering with us to bring a quick resolution to this situation. Should you have any questions, please call our customer service department toll free at (877) 253-DIVE.