

GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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Shipping Guidance Notice – 026

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

**UNITOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE BREATHING DEVICE
– UNISCAPE 15H**

1. The attached Safety Alert re Emergency Escape Breathing Device manufactured by UNITOR has been issued.
2. Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies are to made aware of this Safety Alert and the Technical Notification from the supplier and take the actions contained in them.

Alan Cubbin
Maritime Administrator

Issue date: July 2011

All notices are available through www.gibmaritime.com

This copy of the Administrative Instruction has been sent electronically and does not carry a signature or official stamp. A sign and stamped copy will be available upon request

SAFETY ALERT - TECHNICAL No. 37

UNITOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE BREATHING DEVICE – UNISCAPE 15H

**Further information regarding counterfeited EEBD
–sets of the Unitor/MSA type Uniscape 15H**

Following Safety Alert No. 19 (please visit http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/safety_alert_tech-19.pdf copy this link into your internet browser) it has been brought to MCA attention that copies of the Unitor/MSA Emergency Escape Breathing Device (EEBD) type Uniscape 15 H are still available on board ships.

MCA strongly recommends that all Unitor Uniscape 15H EEBD's onboard any vessel are visually inspected to ensure they are authentic Unitor products.

Full details on how to identify counterfeit products can be found in the attached Wilhelmsen Ships Service Technical Notification.

For further information please contact:

Wilhelmsen Ship Service
Strandvelen 20
NO-1366 Lysaker
PO Bob. 33
Norway

SAFETY ALERT - TECHNICAL No.19



UNITOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE BREATHING DEVICE – UNISCAPE 15H

It has recently been brought to our attention that a copy of a
Unitor Emergency Escape Breathing Device (EEBD) – Model: Uniscape 15H –
has been found onboard a vessel.

This copy does not comply with IMO safety standards and does not display the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) 'wheelmark'. It SHOULD NOT be used as an emergency escape breathing device as it may cause asphyxiation of the wearer.

Full details of how to identify this counterfeited product can be found in the attached Wilhelmssen Ships Service Safety Threat notification.

We strongly recommend that all Unitor Uniscape 15H EEBD's onboard any vessel are visually inspected to ensure they are authentic Unitor products.

If any copies are found, please notify the Maritime & Coastguard Agency or Wilhelmssen Ships Service immediately.

For further information please contact-

Marine Technology Unit,
Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Tel: +44 (0)23 8032 9100
Email: allan.greenland@mca.gov.uk

Issued: November 2008

Technical Notification

Document title:

Fake EEBD-set – useless and dangerous

Business stream:	Valid from:	Prepared by:	Approved by:	Page:
Regulatory Products and Services	14.02.2011	Frederik Davidsen	Mats Hestmann	1 Of 3

Purpose

The purpose of this notification is to warn potential users of EEBD-sets. (Emergency Escape Breathing Device) against accidents and loss of life.

Background

WSS Safety service station in Stavanger, Norway received EEBD-sets for annual inspection from one of our regular customers.

The service engineer discovered that the bags and the EEBD-sets were fake copies of the Unitor/MSA type Uniscapex 15H – and of the same type (copy) as previously discovered and informed.

Routine

**IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THESE FAKE SETS ARE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE
WHENEVER DISCOVERED – AND THE OWNERS ARE SERIOUSLY INFORMED.**

**THESE FAKE COPIES DO NOT WORK AS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO, AND WILL CREATE
AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION FOR THE USER WHEN IT IS NEEDED FOR
ESCAPE.**

Identification criteria:

- **The mask hood is impossible to get over your head.** This is the most serious identification; The neck tightening rubber membrane is not flexible enough to be able to pass a normal head size, and it is sewed to the hood with one single seam – not welded as an original Unitor hood.
- The bag has similar print as the WSS original: "UNITOR UNISCAPE 15H" and "Safety by MSA" is printed on the frontside (together with 4 sketches of how to use.
- The bag material is different; Unitor: shiny PVC. Fake: Dull canvas-like material.
- The zipper is opened from right to left, which means that we evaluate **the functionality of the automatic release mechanism to be doubtful.** When the zipper is opened, it moves towards the cylinder valve – not away from it/pulling also the air release line.
- All sets that are discovered per now has a company label/service tag, with the following information:

UNiscan Marine Products & Services

Uniscan Middle East L.L.C.

Shed No.: 71, Al Jadaf Dry Docking Yard

P.O.Box 62487, Dubai, U.A.E.

Range for information

Flag State administrations, Class Societies, WSS customers

WSS service and sales network – included sub-contractors.

Customer contacts: Please contact your Account Manager or our Customer Services organisation if you should have any further questions or comments.

Other contacts: Mats Petter Hestmann (mats.hestmann@wilhelmsen.com) or Frederik Davidsen (fredrik.davidsen@wilhelmsen.com).

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Unitor EEBD copies in circulation



Upper:
Original Unitor EEBD with shiny PVC bag

Lower:
Copied equipment, with dull canvas-like material



Original Unitor EEBD:

Zipper has 2 cm opening on the teeth
Zipper closes from right to left

Copied equipment:

Zipper has no opening
Zipper closes from left to right. Air-release cannot be activated automatically.

