

KIRBY MORGAN DIVE SYSTEMS, INC.
MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING POLICY CHANGES

3-1-07

Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc., (“KMDSI”) and Dive Lab, Inc., has been working on changes that will aid KMDSI dealers, diving contractors, and individual users of KMDSI equipment the ability to track helmet and bank mask maintenance and/or repair.

KMDSI regularly revises all the SuperLite Helmet Operations and Maintenance Manuals and continuously works to improve all KMDSI equipment manuals. The current checklists are also available on the KMDSI website www.kirbymorgan.com, as a download. It is intended that users of KMDSI helmets and masks use these checklists when performing maintenance and/or using the equipment. These checklists are considered the minimum equipment guidelines. These checklists should be tailored by the user to meet the user requirements based on use and environmental conditions.

Diving Contractor Maintenance Policies:

Many diving contract companies are requiring that their divers have their helmets and masks inspected by an authorized KMDSI trained technician, and some even require that only a KMDSI Certified Technician conduct repairs. KMDSI cannot override the maintenance and repair policies set by companies or organizations, but does strongly recommend companies carefully evaluate their policies and incorporate the KMDSI maintenance and repair recommendations to minimize unnecessary and redundant procedures. The KMDSI maintenance checklists represent the minimum recommended maintenance.

All KMDSI Helmets and Masks are designed with the professional diver in mind. Most maintenance and repairs can be performed by the owner/user using common hand and test tools following the procedures in the appropriate KMDSI Operations and Maintenance Manual. The owner can purchase genuine Kirby Morgan parts and components from any Authorized KMDSI Dealer. KMDSI strongly recommends that person(s) electing to do their own maintenance and repairs, to do so only if they have the proper tools and background training and experience to perform the maintenance. Maintenance and repair training, is available by Dive Lab Inc., as well as other specially authorized KMDSI Dealers. The A2.1 Overhaul, Maintenance, and Inspection Checklist **must be** performed **at least annually** and as dictated by condition revealed during daily/monthly inspection. The A2.2 Monthly Inspection, and Maintenance Checklist **must be** performed at least once a month, and/or as stated in the procedure. The A2.3 Daily Set-up and Functional Checklist **must be** completed prior to commencement of diving operations. All persons performing repairs should keep good maintenance records and all receipts. Technical questions can be addressed to KMDSI or Dive Lab or any Authorized KMDSI Dealer.

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Appendices:

All Helmet and Band Mask Appendices are similar. The appendices are kept separate from the operations and maintenance manuals to minimize time required for changes due to procedural or equipment changes.

Appendix 2: KMDSI Recommended Maintenance and Checklists for all SuperLite and KM Helmet models

A2.1 Overhaul, Inspection and Maintenance

A2.2 Monthly Helmet Inspection

A2.3 Daily Helmet and EGS Set-up and Functional Checklist

A2.4 Supervisors Equipment Checks (prior to water entry)

A2.5 Supervisors (in-water checks)

A2.6 Post Dive Cleaning Maintenance and Inspection

Appendix 3: KMDSI Maintenance Log

Appendix 4: Bleed/Relief Valve

Appendix 5: Quick Sanitizing Procedures

Appendix 6: Thread Insert Testing Procedure

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES / POLICIES:

The following section describes details and specifics when performing maintenance and inspection procedures that are used to complete the daily, monthly, and annual checklists, to ensure optimum reliability and performance. These procedures are utilized in conjunction with the daily pre and post dive maintenance checklists. The service periodicities called out in the appendix section of each checklist are the minimum recommended for Helmets for Bank Masks being used under good conditions. Equipment used in harsh conditions, i.e., contaminated water, welding / burning operations, or jetting, will require more frequent servicing.

The intention of the maintenance checklists is to help maintain all Helmet and Mask components in good working order in accordance with KMDSI factory specifications and to identify worn or damaged parts and components before they affect safety, performance, and reliability. Whenever the serviceability of a component or part is in question, or doubt exists, replace it. All components and parts have a service life and will eventually require replacement.

NOTE: The side block (43a or 43b) does not need to be removed from the helmet annually providing, after removal, helmet components do not show excessive corrosion and verdigris. KMDSI recommends that at a minimum, the side block be removed at least every **three (3) years**. Clean and inspect the stud and securing screw and replace it if bent, striped, or any damage is detected.

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NOTE: The pipe thread fittings used on the umbilical adapter (67) and the emergency gas valve (50) are the only fittings that require sealing with Teflon® tape. **DO NOT USE LIQUID SEALANT.** When installing Teflon® tape on pipe threads, 3 mil tape should be used. Apply the tape starting one thread back from the end of the fitting in a clockwise direction under tension. 1- 1/2 wraps is all that is needed. The use of more than 1-1/2 wraps could cause excess Teflon® tape to travel into the breathing system.

In all Helmet and Band Mask Manuals, chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 gives guidance on all routine and corrective maintenance and repairs. Disassembly and reassembly of components is explained in a step-by-step manner that may not necessarily call out that all O-rings and normal consumable items will be replaced. The manual is written in this way so that if an assembly, component, or part is being inspected or disturbed between normal overhaul intervals it is acceptable to reuse O-rings and components providing they pass a visual inspection (Section 5.3.1.). When conducting scheduled overhauls all O-rings must be replaced. The side block should be removed from the helmet at least every three (3) years so that the stud and securing screw can be inspected. All O-rings should be lubricated with the appropriate lubricant.

Lubrication / Cleanliness:

All new Helmets and Band Masks are lubricated during assembly at KMDSI using Christo Lube®. Seasoned Helmets and Band Masks that have previously been used for air diving but are also intended to be used with breathing gas mixtures in excess of 50% oxygen by volume, should be cleaned in accordance with the applicable Operations and Maintenance Manual and lubricated with oxygen compatible lubricants such as Christo-Lube®, Flourolube®, Krytox® or other oxygen compatible lubricants. **DO NOT MIX LUBRICANTS!** All breathing air supply systems must be filtered and must meet the requirements of grade D quality air or better. Helmets and band masks used for air diving or enriched air at 50 % oxygen or less can be lubricated with food grade silicone grease Dow Corning 111® or equivalent. KMDSI uses Christo-Lube® at the factory for lubrication of all gas train components requiring lubrication, and highly recommends its use.

Before 1999, Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc., used Danger and Warning Notices in the helmet and mask owner's manual limiting the breathing gas percentage to less than 23.5 percent oxygen. This was due primarily to cleaning issues in regards to possible fire hazards and was in compliance with the recommendations of the Association of Standard Test Methods (ASTM), National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), and the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) as well as other industry standards. During the 1990's open circuit scuba use of enriched-air (Nitrox) by technical and recreational divers

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became very popular, and as use increased, so did the number of combustion incidents during the mixing and handling of the breathing mixtures. These combustion incidents brought attention to the dangers and inherent risks associated with oxygen and oxygen enriched gas mixtures.

KMDSI cannot dictate or override regulations or recommendations set forth by industry standards or governing bodies pertaining to enriched gas use. However, it is the opinion of KMDSI that breathing gas mixtures up to 50% oxygen by volume should not pose a significant increased risk of fire or combustion in Kirby Morgan Helmets and Masks low-pressure components and does not warrant the need for the stringent specialized oxygen clean post-sampling and particulate analysis normally accomplished for components used in high pressure oxygen valves, regulators, and piping systems. The decision for using 50% has been primarily based on a long history of operation field use by the US Navy and Commercial Diving Industry. However, this is not intended to down play the need for cleaning and maintenance. All helmets and masks, as well as gas transporting components should be maintained carefully and cleaned at regular intervals and/or whenever contamination is found or suspected.

KMDSI feels confident that as long as Kirby Morgan helmets and masks are cleaned and maintained in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable maintenance manuals and maintenance checklist procedures, the equipment should not pose a significant increased risk of a fire or ignition originating in the helmet or mask low-pressure <250 psig (<17.2 bar) or less components when used with enriched gases of up to 50% oxygen. However, CAUTION should be exercised any time enriched gases are handled or used. In general, helmets and masks used primarily for mixed gas use are subject to far less oil and particulate contamination than those used for air diving. For this reason, helmets and masks commonly used with both air and enriched breathing gases should be cleaned and maintained with even greater care and vigilance. It is important that all internal gas-transporting components, i.e., side block, bent tube, and demand regulator assemblies remain clean and free of hydrocarbons, dirt, and particulates. Whenever the equipment is depressurized, all exposed ports or fittings should be plugged /capped to help maintain foreign material exclusion. Gas train components should be cleaned according to the procedures outlined in the Operations and Maintenance Manual at least annually and whenever contamination is suspected or found. Normal interior and exterior surfaces should be cleaned at least daily at the completion of daily diving operations.

Helmets and masks used in waters contaminated with oils and other petroleum or chemical contaminants may require cleaning after each dive.

Helmet and mask components requiring lubrication should be lubricated sparingly with lubricants approved for oxygen use such as Christo-Lube®, Krytox®, or

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Flourolube®. KMDSI highly recommends using Christo-Lube®, and uses Christo-Lube® during the assembly of all KMDSI gas train components.

Regardless of the approved lubricant used, avoid mixing different kinds of lubricants. Persons mixing, handling, and working with breathing gases should be properly trained in all aspects of gas safety handling and use.

CAUTION: Do not use lubricants of any kind on the diaphragm or exhaust valves. Use of lubricants can attract and hold debris that could interfere with the component.

NOTE: Refer to Chapters 6, 7, and 8 for removal and disassembly / reassembly procedures.

NOTE: The helmet weights do not need to be removed from the helmet unless fiberglass damage is present or suspected.

NOTE: During annual overhauls, all O-rings and soft goods including exhaust valves should be replaced. KMDSI offers standard overhaul kits that have all the necessary parts.

NOTE: The neck dam rubber need not be replaced if the inspection reveals no damage or significant wear and the rubber components are not dried out.

NOTE: The oral nasal mask requires replacement only if inspection reveals damage, distortion, or signs of damage. The oral nasal valve should be replaced at least annually.

NOTE: All threaded fasteners and parts require careful cleaning and inspection as well as the mating parts. Replace any and all threaded parts or components that show signs of wear or damage. Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc., (“KMDSI”) and Dive Lab, Inc., have been working on changes that will aid KMDSI dealers, diving contractors, and individual users to track helmet and band mask maintenance and/or repair.

KIRBY MORGAN HELMETS AND BAND MASK CHECKLISTS/TRAINING:

Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc., (“KMDSI”) has developed the pre and post dive maintenance checklists as well as the other maintenance checklists to assist divers, tenders, and diving supervisors. The new checklists are for all KMDSI SuperLite Helmets, KM-37, 57 and Band Masks and intended to be used as a guide to help ensure helmets and masks are set-up and maintained properly. In addition, KMDSI is in the process of standardizing all SuperLite helmet and band mask manuals for those who use

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multiple models of KMDSI equipment. KMDSI always welcomes all constructive criticism on the new checklists, manuals, and products.

Training Policies and Guidelines:

Dive Lab, Inc. oversees and administers all (KMDSI) factory repair and maintenance training for all Kirby Morgan products. Kirby Morgan authorizes selected overseas dealers, depending on experience, knowledge, and geographical location to teach KMDSI helmet and band mask technician training. Selected dealers receive additional training to allow them to teach specific equipment only. All KMDSI training certificates are issued by Dive Lab upon review of course completion documentation and verification of the technician trainer certification status. Only Dive Lab can conduct KMDSI dealer technician training. All KMDSI technicians are issued a technician certification number which is entered into the technician/operator/user data bank so that KMDSI product and part changes, as well as bulletins, repair notices, tech tips and updates can be e-mailed. All non-dealer technicians, as well as persons trained as Operator/User are also on the mailing list.

The KMDSI training policies and guidelines are intended to help persons performing repairs, maintenance and training that have received KMDSI standardized training on the equipment as the manufacture intended. The training also teaches the intended use and limitations of the equipment. Non KMDSI dealer technicians trained by authorized KMDSI dealers are encouraged to teach the KMDSI operator/user course, however, the course curriculum must be presented within the guidelines set-up in the basic repair technicians guide, Doc. # TechTmg 03101.

Only KMDSI dealer technicians can perform repairs for profit. Non-dealer technicians must limit repairs to their own equipment, company owned equipment, and equipment belonging to company employees as dictated by company policy. Non-dealer technicians performing repairs for profit do so without authorization of KMDSI or Dive Lab.

It is strongly recommended that all technicians document all repairs and maintenance. KMDSI dealer technicians must document all work performed on all KMDSI helmets, band masks, and KMDSI equipment worked on, and records must be kept. All helmets and band masks must be accompanied by a log book showing the history of repair and maintenance. The log book is important because it shows the history of use, repair, and maintenance. Dealers receiving helmets or masks for repair or maintenance must have a logbook so they can document the work they perform. Helmets or masks not accompanied by a log or record of use and maintenance will require at a minimum an inspection IAW appendix A2.1. The A2.1 must be performed at least once

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every 12 months on helmets and masks in use. Helmets and masks that have been in storage for up to 2 years, which have not been used since the last A2.1 was performed will require a monthly inspection IAW the A2.2.

Fiberglass and Gel Coat:

KMDSI Dealers should not work on helmets or masks that have had fiberglass repairs done by someone other than KMDSI certified repair technicians. Helmets that have been coated with coatings like Rhino Lining® or truck bed urethane should be turned away. Painting of helmets is not recommended and should be discouraged. Dealers can deny servicing helmets that have been painted, or show signs of repairs completed by non KMDSI trained technicians, or repairs made improperly.

All KMDSI certified technician trainers must certify or assist in certifying at least one technician course per year in order to remain as an active technician trainer. Dealer technicians are issued a new certificate each year for four years providing they remain active and abide by all the KMDSI technician guidelines and requirements. Dealers are required to keep records of repairs and training conducted.

Dealer qualifications are listed on the KMDSI and Dive Lab's web site so that users of KMDSI products can review certification and qualification status. Non-Kirby Morgan dealers and persons not trained by Dive Lab that perform repairs for profit, do so against the recommendation of KMDSI and Dive Lab. Non-KMDSI certified persons that pose as certified KMDSI / Dive Lab trained technicians are a serious safety threat to the diving industry and all users of KMDSI equipment. Dive Lab trained technicians working for diving contractors or as free-lance divers cannot perform repairs for profit, and can only work on their own equipment, company equipment, and equipment belonging to the employees of the company, as dictated by company policy. This is done to prevent persons from trying to become back yard helmet mechanics. All work and repairs must be documented. Any helmets and masks presented for work that do not have a log book showing work history, must be overhauled IAW Appendix A2.1.

The KMDSI training and certification policies have been established to help protect the user, technician, and KMDSI dealers by promoting safety through knowledge, experience, and the proper maintenance of KMDSI products.

KMDSI dealers that have been trained and authorized to teach technician courses must teach the course set-up by Dive Lab. Dealers are not allowed to create their own course curriculum and must teach IAW the training guide and instruction provided by KMDSI and Dive Lab.

KMDSI technicians can only teach the equipment they were actually trained on as listed on their certification. All equipment trainees that are trained during technician or

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operator / user training (Formally Inspector Training) must be listed on a properly filled out course completion form sent to Dive Lab no later than 30 days after completion of training with the \$25.00 processing fee.

Dealer technicians authorized to teach helmet and band mask technician training must run at least one technician course per year in order to remain on the active instructor list.

Dealer Training:

Dealer training is valid for 4 years. Dealer technician certification is renewable annually for free by Dive Lab as directed by KMDSI providing dealers remain eligible.

Dealer Repairs:

Kirby Morgan Dealers that have not received technician training by Dive Lab may not perform repairs or service on KMDSI equipment until training has been completed. Dealers may only perform repairs on the KMDSI equipment for which they have been trained on. Persons working as technicians at a KMDSI dealership that have not received training by Dive Lab, must only work under the supervision of a trained KMDSI dealer technician, and that technician is responsible for signing off all work completed.

Fiberglass Repair:

Face port insert repair, fiberglass, and gel-coat repairs can only be completed by Dive Lab trained and certified technicians that have received fiberglass repair training. Dealers are not allowed to have fiberglass, gel-coat or insert repairs made by boat yards or other non Dive Lab/KMDSI trained persons.

All fiberglass and gel-coat repairs should be documented with before and after pictures of work. The pictures will be available to the customer as well as KMDSI and Dive Lab.

All equipment repairs by KMDSI dealers will be documented. The customer will receive a cost estimate prior to start of any work or repairs. All work and repairs are to be clearly documented.

All KMDSI Helmet and Band Mask Technicians that have taken the KMDSI Repair Technicians Course may teach the KMDSI Operator/User Course IAW the guidelines laid out in the Basic Repair Technician Training Guide # TechTmg 03101.

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KMDSI Helmet and Band Mask Operator/User Course (5-7 hours): Formerly known as Inspector training:

The KMDSI Helmet and Band Mask Operator/User Course is intended to instruct personnel in the manufacturer's recommended maintenance and set-up procedures, as well as basic inspection and adjustment procedures. The operator course is not intended to be a repair technician course and does not qualify person(s) to perform repairs or overhauls. The course is intended to teach divers, tenders, and diving supervisors how to make pre-dive assessments as to the condition and serviceability of KMDSI helmets and band masks based on pre-dive visual inspection and functional tests using the applicable KMDSI checklists and Operations and Maintenance Manuals. The course certificate is valid for two years initially and three years upon re-certification.

KMDSI Basic Technician Course (2 day):

The KMDSI Basic Technician Course is intended to instruct technicians and users of KMDSI helmets and band masks how to perform routine and corrective maintenance procedures and equipment overhauls. The course covers demand regulator and side block overhauls, as well as all recommended owner level repairs, including face port insert testing. The course does not include insert repair or fiberglass and gel coat repair. The course certificate is valid for three years.

Certification:

Certificates and wallet cards are only issued by Dive Lab, Inc., upon review of course completion paperwork. Any Technician or Operators Courses taught by "Dealer Technician must have each attendee complete a course completion form. The Technician teaching the course should fill out the top portion of the form. All information should be filled out so that future important notices or changes to procedures can be e-mailed. The forms should be sent by the Instructor to Dive Lab, Inc., within 30 days of course completion along with \$25.00 (for each certificate to be issued). KMDSI / Dive Lab has the right to deny certification to any individuals due to previous unethical or practices not in line with the intent of KMDSI Technician/Operator Courses.

Responsibility of Trained Personnel:

All persons that have received Kirby Morgan training have a responsibility to ensure the helmets and masks they work on are set-up, and adjusted in accordance with the applicable pre-dive checklists and the Operations and Maintenance Manuals. Helmets or masks that fail inspections or tests, as well as those with worn, damaged, or non-approved components that could affect safety or performance, must be repaired prior to use. All scheduled maintenance, as well as daily pre and post dive maintenance, must be documented. Helmets or masks requiring fiberglass or insert repairs, or other repairs outside the scope of basic technician, must be only be repaired by a certified KMDSI repair technician trained and authorized to perform the repairs. Many of the checklists

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undergo changes from time to time. All Technicians and Operator/Users should periodically check the Dive Lab web page for change information. New e-mail addresses

should be sent to Dive Lab so files can be updated to ensure important notices and changes can be forwarded. For further information on training contact Dive Lab at www.divelab@aol.com

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