



Unique **SEAFLEX**

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## UNIQUE SEAFLEX INFLATABLE BUOYANCY UNITS (IBUs)

### ALL INVOLVED PERSONNEL – MUST READ THIS BEFORE USE

**Inflatable buoyancy Units are designed for the support of loads floating on the surface, or for de-ballasting submerged objects such as pipelines and other items on the seabed.**

**They are not for lifting items through the water column, and when used for shallow water vessel recovery, only then in fully controlled conditions. If in any doubt – please contact Unique Seaflex Ltd.**

#### GENERAL HANDLING

**DO NOT** use knives to open the packaging and do not drag IBUs over rough surfaces such as decks, concrete or gravel. They are much easier to handle when inflated so it is sensible to inflate as soon as unpacked and deflate only when ready to pack. If this is impractical, they may be stored in a 'deflated heap' providing they are not liable to damage from boots, vehicles etc.

#### PRE-DEPLOYMENT CHECK

This should be carried out by a competent person in accordance with IMCA Guidance D016–Air Lift Bags–Rev3. Every unit is checked prior to despatch from Seaflex or our agents but occasionally the pressure release valves (PRVs) may be reluctant to seat which can be cured by 'flipping' the mushroom head from the outside to dislodge any grit or sand that may be preventing a seal. It is worth turning each of the inflation valves on and off to ensure they are free. If user supplied fittings are to be attached to the valve. Hand tightness with plenty of PTFE tape on the valve thread is sufficient.

#### ATTACHMENT TO THE LOAD

Each one of the steel lifting rings must be attached to a separate strongpoint on the load at the spacing shown on the Specification Sheet for the size of IBU being used. If this is not possible a spreader bar with the same spacing attachments should be used. On no account should lifting rings be brought together or any loads applied at other points.

IBUs must be kept close to level and never exceed the axial angle of trim given in the relevant specification sheet. Failure to comply with this can result in the strops being ripped from their pockets and in severe cases escape of the bag from the rig. Where IBUs are used for shallow water salvage, the maximum possible angle the casualty could achieve should be taken into account.

If the bags are to assist a 'rotating load' advice should be sought from Unique Seaflex Ltd.

