

A WORD FROM THE "WEBMASTER"

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(Henri LE BRIS personal website <<http://hlbmatos.free.fr>>)

"GUESTBOOK"

Dear guests, do not be impatient. For now, only the "Regulators" and "Cylinders" books have been translated into English. The other books will follow.

Objectives

We do not want to make our visitors specialists in diving equipment. What we want is to give users the minimum knowledge necessary to choose, use safely, maintain and discuss with sellers knowingly.

Divers must develop a critical sense of the material. This constitutes for them a pledge of independence with regard to commercial systems whose objectives are not always confused with theirs. The arguments that are sometimes used in advertisements should not abuse them. It is by showing that they are not completely incompetent that buyers will encourage sellers to use serious arguments.

Formerly, we found with each material a detailed technical documentation accompanied by diagrams of principles and exploded views which made it possible to repair ourselves. Those days are over with the argument that equipment requires skill that only authorized dealers or repairers have.

It is difficult to define the extent of knowledge that a diver must have to deal with all the situations that he may encounter within the framework of his prerogatives.

He must be able to assess the condition of his equipment and check it before, during and after a dive. He must be able to decide what to do. (What to do if) Can he dive, under what circumstances should he interrupt a dive and according to what procedure etc?

For this, he must have a minimum of knowledge of the normal functioning of his equipment.

For some, we go a little too far in our explanations.

However, we must not confuse the minimum level that each diver must have with that without limit that he has the right to have.

Everyone, I hope will find here what they aspire to.

Technicians training

As my friend Pierre VÖGEL said: **"A kilo of knowledge is not worth a gram of experience"**
As a result, there are good, even very good repairers, I know a number of them. It is however regrettable that there is no diploma in this field. Indeed, initial training is essential to understand the basics of this job. Repairers are often trained on the job. This does not allow them to acquire all the skills required concerning the material on which they are likely to intervene.

Of course, most of them are following internships with manufacturers. The latter make great efforts in this area, but these internships are very specialized and do not provide the necessary bases for those who do not have them. A good technician must know how to use all the tools and documentation resources available to him. He must also be able to understand the old materials still in service, as well as the new materials he discovers.

Most diving equipment is classified as "Personal Protective Equipment" or "PPE". As such, they are subject to compliance with the corresponding standards. We cannot therefore admit that the training of sellers and repairers is not carried out seriously like that of users.

We are told, and it is often true, that customers are incompetent. How many times do we hear that they always know too much, that keeping them in the dark prevents them from tinkering and making dangerous mistakes. It can be argued that knowledge encourages caution. Most diving equipment is no more complicated and no more dangerous than bicycles and yet, that never repairs one's own?

A diver, faced with the price and often the repair time, may be tempted to carry out a makeshift repair on the job. He must therefore be aware of his incompetence as much as of his skills in order to decide whether or not to intervene himself.

*Divers will find on the "hlbmato" site the material necessary for their training but our objective is above all to inform them. Based on the principle that: **A seller must know what he is selling and a buyer what he is buying**, this site provides them with the elements necessary to sell, teach, choose, maintain and above all use diving equipment correctly.*

A confirmed diver must be able to:

Analyze their needs based on:

- its prerogatives;*
- its types of diving;*
- its ergonomics;*
- its security.*

Take into account their level of activity:

- instructors, supervisors, "Tec" or leisure divers, or even their physical condition.*

To take into account its morphology:

- men, women, children, height and weight.*

It is also desirable that he knows:

- the basic principles of its equipment;*
- its advantages and disadvantages;*
- the limits of its use;*

- its daily and periodic maintenance;
- its main failures, their prevention, their remedy and especially the course of action.

Perform a number of operations depending on the skill acquired: (As examples)

- equip yourself properly;
- change all accessible seals;
- change the position of the hoses of a regulator according to the ergonomics chosen;
- change a nozzle on a second stage;
- change the rotary joint of an HP pressure gauge;
- change the purge valves or the corrugated pipe of the buoys;
- mount a dive computer transmitter on a first floor.

Even a confirmed diver must not:

- dismantle a mechanism which it does not understand how it works;
- dismantle a mechanism of which it does not have at least an exploded view with the references of the parts;
- replace a gasket or a part that is not certified as original or compatible.
- modify standardized equipment.

Important note:

We noted that the vocabulary necessary to understand the material was less and less known. This applies everywhere and more particularly for “Buoyancy Compensator”.

In support of this, the remark by Carl Von Linné, an 18th century Swedish naturalist:

If we ignore the names of things, we also lose knowledge of them.

"Guest Book"