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[RECALL / Swivel commonly used on AGA mask affected](#)

Welcome to ScubaBoard, an online scuba diving forum community where you can join over 205,000 divers diving from around the world. If the topic is related to scuba diving, this is the place to find divers talking about it. To gain full access to ScubaBoard (and make this large box go away) you must register for a free account. As a registered member you will be able to:

- Participate in over 500 dive topic forums and browse from over 5,500,000 posts.
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- Find a dive buddy or communicate directly with scuba equipment manufacturers.
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**Thread: RECALL / Swivel commonly used on AGA mask affected**

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Pete Gannon at Dive Rescue International contacted OTS today and this evening the following recall was issued. The affected recall dates may be expanded too.

Blades Robinson, Executive Director  
International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists  
[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

FROM THE OTS WEBPAGE ...  
<http://www.oceantechnologysystems.com/mj-recall-1.shtml>

**M & J Engineering Safety Notice**  
**SW-3000 Swivel**

**Emergency Recall Notice**



Recall Notice - M & J Swivel - 8/11/05

M & J Engineering has issued a Recall notice for all Swivels manufactured during the time period of October 2004 through January 2005. This notice is for the Interspiro Divator MKII full face mask swivels only.

DO NOT DIVE ANY M & J swivel if you have doubt of the date of manufacture or if you have noticed the swivel unscrewing during normal use.

You will find manufacturer's information stamped on the swivel located on the main body (see the picture right). The date is stamped on the bottom. In this case the date is 10/04.

OTS Unofficial Test: We have received 4 reports from the field that swivels have come loose causing divers to take emergency actions. Upon receipt of a defective swivel, we conducted a test. We connected a supply hose to the swivel and connected the swivel to a Divator MKII 2nd stage. We found that it worked fine moving in all directions. The first appearance was they were OK. After applying pressure (turn on the air supply) to the system the connections become stiff. After moving the supply hose around, the swivel began to start a ratchet type action. It actually start unscrewing with each movement.

At this point, we are waiting for M & J Engineering to get back to OTS with a solution and action. If you have experienced a problem or concern with a M & J Engineering connector, please contact OTS immediately.

(714) 754-7848  
.....

ALSO, PLEASE COPY YOUR CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
brobinson@iadr.org

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August 22nd, 2005, 11:28 AM

#2

**DIVEMASTERROB**

Registered



Has not set a "status"

Join Date: Aug 2003  
Location: GEORGIA  
Posts: 11

Thanks for the info!!! Our dive team uses the agamask and we have that swivel on them.

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September 3rd, 2007, 02:13 PM

**BladesRobinson**

Public Safety Diver



DiveRescueIntl.com



Join Date: Oct 2004  
Location: FLORIDA / LAT 27° 39.133' / LON 080°22.261' / ICW Marker 140  
Photos: 1

**Another RECALL notice from the CPSC**

**THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION RELEASED A RECALL THIS PAST WEEK REGARDING M&J OMNISWIVELS. THIS APPEARS TO BE A "SECOND NOTICE" ISSUED ON THIS PRODUCT. IF YOUR TEAM IS USING SWIVELS ON AGA MASKS, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VISIT THE WEBPAGE AT:**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml07/07293.html>

**M&J Engineering Recalls Swivels for Scuba Diving Masks Due to Drowning Hazard**

August 29, 2007  
Release #07-293 Firm's Recall Hotline: (888) 794-8351  
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in

cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: **AGA Swivels for Scuba Diving Masks**

Units: About 1,500

Manufacturer: M&J Engineering, of Poway, Calif.

Hazard: The swivel, which is attached to a diving mask, could separate while diving. This will result in a sudden loss of the diver's air supply, causing the diver to engage in emergency ascent. This poses a risk of decompression sickness due to rapid ascent or drowning.

Incidents/Injuries: M&J Engineering has received one report of swivels separating from the masks while diving. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves all SW-3000 2nd stage 360-degree swivels for scuba diving masks **manufactured between January 2004 and February 2005**. The swivel has the date stamped on its body, below the patent number. Swivels that are already repaired have an arrow stamped on the top right corner of the swivel body.

Sold at: Diving retail stores nationwide between January 2004 and February 2005 for about \$60.

Manufactured in: USA

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the scuba diving masks with the swivel attached and contact M&J Engineering to receive a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact M&J Engineering toll-free at (888) 794-8351 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, e-mail [sales@omniswivel.com](mailto:sales@omniswivel.com), or visit the company's Web site at [www.mj-engineering.com](http://www.mj-engineering.com)

#### FROM THE AUG 15, 2005 POST...

Originally Posted by **BladesRobinson**

*Pete Gannon at Dive Rescue International contacted OTS today and this evening the following recall was issued. The affected recall dates may be expanded too.*

-----  
FROM THE OTS WEBPAGE ...

<http://www.oceantechnologysystems.com/mj-recall-1.shtml>

**M & J Engineering Safety Notice**  
**SW-3000 Swivel**

**Emergency Recall Notice**

*Recall Notice - M & J Swivel - 8/11/05*

*M & J Engineering has issued a Recall notice for all Swivels manufactured during the time period of October 2004 through January 2005. This notice is for the Interspiro Divator MKII full face mask swivels only.*

*DO NOT DIVE ANY M & J swivel if you have doubt of the date of manufacture or if you have noticed the swivel unscrewing during normal use.*

*You will find manufacturer's information stamped on the swivel located on the main body (see the picture right). The date is stamped on the bottom. In this case the date is 10/04.*

*OTS Unofficial Test: We have received 4 reports from the field that swivels have come loose causing divers to take emergency actions. Upon receipt of a defective swivel, we conducted a test. We connected a supply hose to the swivel and connected the swivel to a Divator MKII 2nd stage. We found that it worked fine moving in all directions. The first appearance was they were OK. After applying pressure (turn on the air supply) to the system the connections become stiff. After moving the supply hose around, the swivel began to start a ratchet type action. It actually start unscrewing with each movement.*

*At this point, we are waiting for M & J Engineering to get back to OTS with a solution and action. If you have experienced a problem or concern with a M & J Engineering connector, please contact OTS immediately.*

(714) 754-7848

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brobinson@iadr.org

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**Blades Robinson**

Director, Dive Rescue International  
Executive Director, International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists

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[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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September 3rd, 2007, 02:21 PM

**BladesRobinson**

Public Safety Diver



[DiveRescueIntl.com](http://DiveRescueIntl.com)



Join Date: Oct 2004  
Location: FLORIDA / LAT 27° 39.133' / LON 080°22.261' / ICW  
Marker 140  
Photos: 1

**ADDITIONAL RECALL INFORMATION FROM THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REGARDING A SWIVEL DISTRIBUTED BY A DIFFERENT COMPANY WITH DIFFERENT MODEL NUMBER. VISIT:**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml07/07200.html>

Release #07-200

**Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 472-2740**

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

**Innovative Scuba Concepts Recalls Diving Regulator Components Due to Drowning Hazard**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of product:** Swivel for a Scuba Regulator

**Units:** About 170

**Importer:** Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc., of Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Hazard:** The swivel, which is attached to a diving regulator, could separate while diving. This will result in a complete and sudden loss of the diver's air supply, causing the diver to engage in emergency ascent procedures. This poses a risk of decompression sickness due to rapid ascent, and air embolism or drowning if the diver panics or the emergency ascent procedure fails.

**Incidents/Injuries:** The firm has received one report where the swivel separated during a dive and caused the diver to ascend using the buddy breathing technique. No injury was reported.

**Description:** The recall involves the HO110 Swivels sold as an aftermarket regulator component. There are no markings such as a date or production code embossed on the unit. Contact Innovative Scuba Concepts for information on where the recalled units were sold.

**Sold at:** Specialty retail dive stores nationwide from **January 2006 through March 2007** for about \$40. They also could have been installed by a dive shop regulator technician.

**Manufactured in:** Taiwan

**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using regulators with the swivel attached and contact the dive store where purchased for a refund.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc. at (800) 472-2740 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.innovativescuba.com](http://www.innovativescuba.com)

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**Blades Robinson**

Director, Dive Rescue International  
Executive Director, International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists

[www.DiveRescueIntl.com](http://www.DiveRescueIntl.com)  
[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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September 27th, 2007, 10:05 PM

#5

**james croft**

Registered



Has not set a "status"

Join Date: Apr 2005

Location: Virginia

Posts: 1,598

Thanks Blades. I had heard of problems with swivels from other sources for the past couple of years and have advised users not to use swivels. Did not know which manufacturer had problems however. Thanks for the notice.-Jim

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November 9th, 2008, 10:08 PM

#3

**BladesRobinson**

Public Safety Diver



[DiveRescueIntl.com](http://DiveRescueIntl.com)



Join Date: Oct 2004

Location: FLORIDA / LAT 27°

39.133' / LON 080°22.261' / ICW

Marker 140

Photos: 1

**NEAR MISS / Another Out-of-Air Incident**

On Friday I was invited to the DUI dry suit demo for public safety divers. While one diver was underwater, he experienced an out of air emergency when the low pressure swivel unscrewed from his full face mask. He was aware of the initial recall of the swivel and did not know that the recall dates were expanded and another brand of swivel was also affected. **There are a total of FOUR recalls.**

In the recent incident, the well trained diver was able to make an emergency swimming ascent to the surface and thankfully he was NOT injured.

The International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists (IADRS.org) has worked to hard to notify IADRS members and ALL members of the public safety diving community about these faulty swivels. We have posted information on our member discussion forum, in the bi-monthly IADRS newsletter and on our website at:  
<http://www.iadrs.org/index.php?pr=RECALLS>

Additionally, I have posted information to this Scuba Board forum and the SAR-Diver Forum at:  
[SAR-Diver : Water Rescue & Recovery and PSD Forum](#)

If your team is using swivels please review the information below to make certain your teammates to do not have an out of air

emergency!

Regards,

Blades Robinson

*NOTE: If you are a public safety diver and interested in joining the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists, please visit: International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists - IADRS*

**Posted on Mon Aug 15, 2005 7:31 pm**  
**Yahoo! Groups**

Pete Gannon at Dive Rescue International contacted OTS today and this evening the following recall was issued. **The affected recall dates may be expanded too.**

Blades Robinson, Executive Director  
 International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists  
[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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 FROM THE OTS WEBPAGE ...  
<http://www.oceantechnologysystems.com/mj-recall-1.shtml>

M & J Engineering Safety Notice

SW-3000 Swivel

Emergency Recall Notice

M & J Engineering has issued a Recall notice for all Swivels manufactured during the time period of **October 2004 through January 2005**. This notice is for the Interspiro Divator MKII full face mask swivels only.

DO NOT DIVE ANY M & J swivel if you have doubt of the date of manufacture or if you have noticed the swivel unscrewing during normal use.

You will find manufacturer's information stamped on the swivel located on the main body (see the picture right). The date is stamped on the bottom. In this case the date is 10/04.

OTS Unofficial Test: We have received 4 reports from the field that swivels have come loose causing divers to take emergency actions. Upon receipt of a defective swivel, we conducted a test. We connected a supply hose to the swivel and connected the swivel to a Divator MKII 2nd stage. We found that it worked fine moving in all directions. The first appearance was they were OK. After applying pressure (turn on the air supply) to the system the connections become stiff. After moving the supply hose around, the swivel began to start a ratchet type action. It actually start unscrewing with each movement.

At this point, we are waiting for M & J Engineering to get back to OTS with a solution and action. If you have experienced a problem or concern with a M & J Engineering connector, please contact OTS immediately.

(714) 754-7848

.....

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brobinson@iadr.org

**Posted on Tue Jun 12, 2007 4:30 pm**  
**Yahoo! Groups**

FROM OmniSwivel International

June 11, 2007

It has come to our attention that there has been a recall issued by Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc. of Colorado Springs CO. for the 2nd Stage regulator Swivel Manufactured in Taiwan. CPSC website:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml07/07200.html>  
<<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml07/07200.html>>

We at OmniSwivel International (formally known as M&J Engineering) are the original inventor and patent holder for the 2nd stage regulator swivel commonly known as the "OmniSwivel". (Patent # 5,275,444) OmniSwivel International and all of its representatives have never at anytime given permission to Taiwan or any other country to manufacture or export the OmniSwivel. All swivels that are designated in this recall have been illegally manufactured and imported and have nothing to do with OmniSwivel International, its products and their affiliates.

From 1995 through 2002, M&J Engineering manufactured swivels using chrome plating. In 2003 M&J Engineering changed from chrome plating to a nickel plating as well as laser engraving to set ourselves apart from the illegally copied swivel. Although the swivels that were manufactured during 1995-2002 look similar, there are two very distinguishing features. The first is the flat head screw located on the top side of the swivel. The screw manufactured by M&J Engineering is intended for the top of the screw to fit flush with the radius of the swivel body. The Swivel manufactured in Taiwan has a recess around the flat head screw. The second is the ridge that is located on the 5/8" hex portion where you connect the scuba hose. The Taiwan swivel does not have this ridge. They have a 5/8" hex that is just cut off.

We have dedicated ourselves to manufacture only the highest quality products. Using precision design and manufacturing processes we separate our Patented OmniSwivel made here in the USA from the cheap imitations that are illegally imported. Should any diver require further assistance with determining the difference between the Swivels, please feel free to contact OmniSwivel International.

Johan G. Wythoff

Owner / Inventor and Patent holder

OmniSwivel International

**Posted on Mon Sep 3, 2007 1:52 pm**  
**<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/IADRS/message/717>**

IF YOUR TEAM IS USING SWIVELS ON AGA MASKS, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO

VISIT THE WEBPAGE AT:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml07/07293.html>

M&J Engineering Recalls Swivels for Scuba Diving Masks Due to Drowning Hazard

Release #07-293 Firm's Recall Hotline: (888) 794-8351

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: AGA Swivels for Scuba Diving Masks

Units: About 1,500

Manufacturer: M&J Engineering, of Poway, Calif.

Hazard: The swivel, which is attached to a diving mask, could separate while diving. This will result in a sudden loss of the diver's air supply, causing the diver to engage in emergency ascent. This poses a risk of decompression sickness due to rapid ascent or drowning.

#4

Incidents/Injuries: M&J Engineering has received one report of swivels separating from the masks while diving. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves all SW-3000 2nd stage 360-degree swivels for scuba diving masks manufactured between **January 2004 and February 2005**. The swivel has the date stamped on its body, below the patent number. Swivels that are already repaired have an arrow stamped on the top right corner of the swivel body.

Sold at: Diving retail stores nationwide between **January 2004 and February 2005** for about \$60.

Manufactured in: USA

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the scuba diving masks with the swivel attached and contact M&J Engineering to receive a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact M&J Engineering toll-free at (888) 794-8351 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, e-mail [sales@omniswivel.com](mailto:sales@omniswivel.com), or visit the company's Web site at [www.mj-engineering.com](http://www.mj-engineering.com)

**CONTINUED TO NEXT POST...**

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**Blades Robinson**  
Director, Dive Rescue International  
Executive Director, International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists

[www.DiveRescueIntl.com](http://www.DiveRescueIntl.com)  
[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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November 9th, 2008, 10:10 PM

**BladesRobinson**

Public Safety Diver



[DiveRescueIntl.com](http://DiveRescueIntl.com)

Continued from previous post...

**PLEASE READ THE POST  
THAT PRECEEDS THIS ONE...**

Originally Posted by **BladesRobinson**

**CONTINUED TO NEXT POST...**



Join Date: Oct 2004  
 Location: FLORIDA / LAT 27° 39.133' / LON 080°22.261' / ICW  
 Marker 140  
 Photos: 1

Posted on Mon Sep 3, 2007 2:26 pm  
 Yahoo! Groups

ADDITIONAL RECALL INFORMATION FROM THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REGARDING A SWIVEL DISTRIBUTED BY A DIFFERENT COMPANY WITH DIFFERENT MODEL NUMBER. VISIT:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PREREL/prhtml07/07200.html>

Release #07-200  
 Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 472-2740  
 CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
 CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Innovative Scuba Concepts Recalls Diving Regulator Components Due to Drowning Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Swivel for a Scuba Regulator

Units: About 170

Importer: Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc., of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Hazard: The swivel, which is attached to a diving regulator, could separate while diving. This will result in a complete and sudden loss of the diver's air supply, causing the diver to engage in emergency ascent procedures. This poses a risk of decompression sickness due to rapid ascent, and air embolism or drowning if the diver panics or the emergency ascent procedure fails.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received one report where the swivel separated during a dive and caused the diver to ascend using the buddy breathing technique. No injury was reported.

Description: The recall involves the HO110 Swivels sold as an aftermarket regulator component. There are no markings such as a date or production code embossed on the unit. Contact Innovative Scuba Concepts for information on where the recalled units were sold.

Sold at: Specialty retail dive stores nationwide from **January 2006 through March 2007** for about \$40. They also could have been installed by a dive shop regulator technician.

Manufactured in: Taiwan

Remedy: Consumers should stop using regulators with the swivel attached and contact the dive store where purchased for a refund.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc. at (800) 472-2740 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.innovativescuba.com](http://www.innovativescuba.com)

*Last edited by BladesRobinson; November 9th, 2008 at 10:52 PM.*

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**Blades Robinson**  
 Director, Dive Rescue International  
 Executive Director, International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists

[www.DiveRescueIntl.com](http://www.DiveRescueIntl.com)  
[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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November 10th, 2008, 03:17 PM

#8

**dittrimd**

Force Fin Diver



**SUPPORTER**

Has not set a "status"



Join Date: Feb 2007  
 Location: Coventry, CT  
 Posts: 224  
 Dives: 200 - 499  
 Photos: 11

**Help Clarify This Matter Please!!**

Our team is in the throws of debating this issue and whether or not to continue to use the swivels. We are purchasing some masks from OTS and they are against using them all together. I have been using one of the earlier chrome swivels since 2001. We sent our swivels back to M&J Engineering (now Omniswivel) and they said they were not part of the recall. I continued to use it and in 2007 I purchase two of the newer Nickel plated swivels for my own use. One was for my personal AGA and the other was for a standard regulator. I have not had a single problem with any of the swivels.

I am confused by all the recalls. Were any of the recalls the M&J Engineering swivels or were they only the Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc swivels. Reading the memo from Johan G. Wythoff dated June 11, 2007 it seems to indicate that M&J Swivels were never recalled rather just the ones made illegally in Taiwan. Yet OTS memo states they are M&J. I would appreciate anyone clarifying if M&J were ever recalled.

Thanks  
 Mark D.

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Rescue Diver and Webmaster  
 Tolland County Rescue Divers  
 Firefighter/Paramedic/HAZMAT Technician  
 Willington Volunteer Fire Department

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November 11th, 2008, 01:31 AM

**BladesRobinson**

Public Safety Diver



[DiveRescueIntl.com](http://DiveRescueIntl.com)



Join Date: Oct 2004  
 Location: FLORIDA / LAT 27° 39.133' / LON 080°22.261' / ICW Marker 140  
 Photos: 1

Originally Posted by **dittrimd**

*I am confused by all the recalls. Were any of the recalls the M&J Engineering swivels or were they only the Innovative Scuba Concepts Inc swivels?*

Mark,

The recall from the Consumer Product Safety Commission dated August 29, 2007 (see: [M&J Engineering Recalls Swivels for Scuba Diving Masks Due to Drowning Hazard](#)) specifically names M & J Engineering (a/k/a Omni Swivel) as the company with 1,500 potentially defective swivels.

Because of the fact that a diver can loose their air supply suddenly and without warning, OTS made the decision to discontinue selling the swivel. Divers should see the OTS statement at: <http://www.oceanttechnologysystems.com/mj-recall-1.shtml>

It reads (in part)...

[Ocean Technology Systems Statement](#)

"Due to the severity of the recall for the M & J Engineering swivel and the potential that the swivel could cause a serious diving accident, Ocean Technology Systems has decided not to distribute and/or sell the swivel any longer. Our recommendation to anyone who has a M & J Engineering swivel is to NOT use it unless you are 100% sure it is in good working order. We recommend you contact M & J Engineering for questions, concerns, recall service and/or general service for this item."

I ask who can be 100% certain their swivel is in good working order? Based on my understanding of the defect I will **not** use the swivel ... EVER!

Today I learned that the swivel used during Friday's exercise was dated 08/05 and it was manufactured by M & J Engineering. This swivel was not affected by the CPSC recall since it was outside of the dates cited by the manufacturer and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Even though the unit was not officially recalled, it was still able to back off of the mask on Friday and the result was a total and immediate cessation of air flow to the diver.

I spoke to Omni Swivel today and they stated that the diver probably didn't tighten the swivel properly. The engineer went on to say that they are redesigning the swivel so that the o-ring is repositioned and the unit will vent air through the o-ring before a total failure occurs. This air leak will allow the diver time to turn off his air supply, remove pressure from the system and retighten. I assume they propose that takes place on the surface. If that is the "fix" to this problem, I still have concerns. Also note that this is the **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** repair and these **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** units have yet to be distributed. Additionally, there are no plans at this time to replace the "old" units.

Effective today, Dive Rescue International will no longer sell swivels for the Interspiro mask unless they are approved by Interspiro or the U. S. Navy's Experimental Dive Unit. I believe other responsible PSD vendors will adopt a similar position.

If anyone is familiar with an out-of-air incident involving these swivels on Interspiro/AGA masks, please let me know. You can post to this forum or contact me offlist at: brobinson @ IADRS dot ORG.

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**Blades Robinson**

Director, Dive Rescue International  
Executive Director, International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists

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[www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: <http://bit.ly/arC0d9>

Reply With Quote

November 11th, 2008, 07:25 AM

**bridgediver**  
Scuba Instructor

I respect the decision and actions of DRI in that they are taking action in a manner that they believe will keep other PSDs safe. Having said that I'm not totally convinced that its a faulty peice of



Has not set a "status"  
 Join Date: May 2003  
 Location: southern alberta  
 Posts: 754  
 Photos: 5

equipment.

I have had this happen to me at 30ft and have seen it happen once on the surface following a dive. Both occurrences followed fairly substantial adjustment/movement of the swivel and mask including mask removal/replacement drills (feel free to use these incidents as you need, Blades).

After a few questions the conclusion was improper threading and seating of the swivel onto the mask was probably the culprit. The swivel itself would have been installed onto the mask improperly. Since then we have  
 1) kept our masks attached to our rigs so that they can be put together without the general haste that may occur when deploying  
 2) have also added a double check in our pre-dive sequence  
 3) All divers are aware of the potential failure  
 We put it to a vote at the time and it was decided that we would keep using the swivel. Since then we haven't had any problems.

I can sort of see where you're coming from. The OOA is probably the one of the most dramatic a diver can ever have - it goes from normal to nothing IMMEDIATELY but also there is no question to the diver what the problem is (unlike other OOA's that may be at other locations and not immediately apparent). BUT, it is still an OOA and if we have one we should have the skill to switch to our back-up IMO and ascend normally.

I can also see a similar, dramatic OOA occurring:  
 - from some types of blocks being improperly positioned (maybe gets bumped during the dive)  
 - an empty pony when or if the diver needs to switch to it  
 - an empty main  
 - one or the other tank is not open when the diver needs it  
 - a total o-ring failure on the tank valve on yoke style tanks/regs - which most of us tend to use  
 - some brands of regulators will fail "closed". these aren't sold anymore that I'm aware of but they are still maintained and still serviced today  
 Of course we have checks to reduce the chance of these from occurring as well but can we 100% eliminate them? We could also remove some of this equipment to avoid the potential as well ie use SSA, no blocks and DIN valves or can we balance the risk for the benefit? It's something the team needs to decide

Anyway, I will take this to my team again. The fact that DRI is not using the swivel anymore is something everyone should be aware of and consider. But if its a threading problem (all indications that I've seen indicate that) I'd call it "pilot error" and still fly with this airline but will respect the decision of my team

#6

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