

SAFETY ALERT:

BEWARE OF WHERE YOU BUY USED DIVING HELMETS

Date: *June 17 2014*

A diver/employee of an ADCI Member Company purchased a used Kirby Morgan SL 27 online from a diving equipment supply company.

The selling company explicitly stated that the helmet had been serviced by a technician and was ready to dive. Once final payment was made, the seller stated that a technician would go over the helmet a second time prior to delivery.

A letter, delivered with the helmet, stated that an annual service had been conducted on the helmet, with a few noted exceptions. The appropriate Kirby Morgan forms also accompanied the helmet, filled out and signed by the owner of the selling company (as a technician).

Upon receipt of the helmet, the diver presented it to his company's certified technician for a pre-service inspection, as is required for all incoming helmets at his company.

Although some of the parts appeared new (bent tube, diaphragm, dial-a-breath, dump flapper, and regulator flapper), it was clear that the rest of the helmet had not been serviced as stated, and was in poor condition.

Some of the findings included:

1. Several parts were non-functional or broken
2. Some connections, such as the bent-tube to side-block were only hand-tight
3. Other connections, such as the face-port screws, were bent, over-torqued, and/or seized. One screw had to be drilled out and removed with vise grips
4. Some of the connections at the side block were sealed with a type of plumber's putty
5. The O-rings were flat, worn, and muddy
6. The O-ring seats were filthy

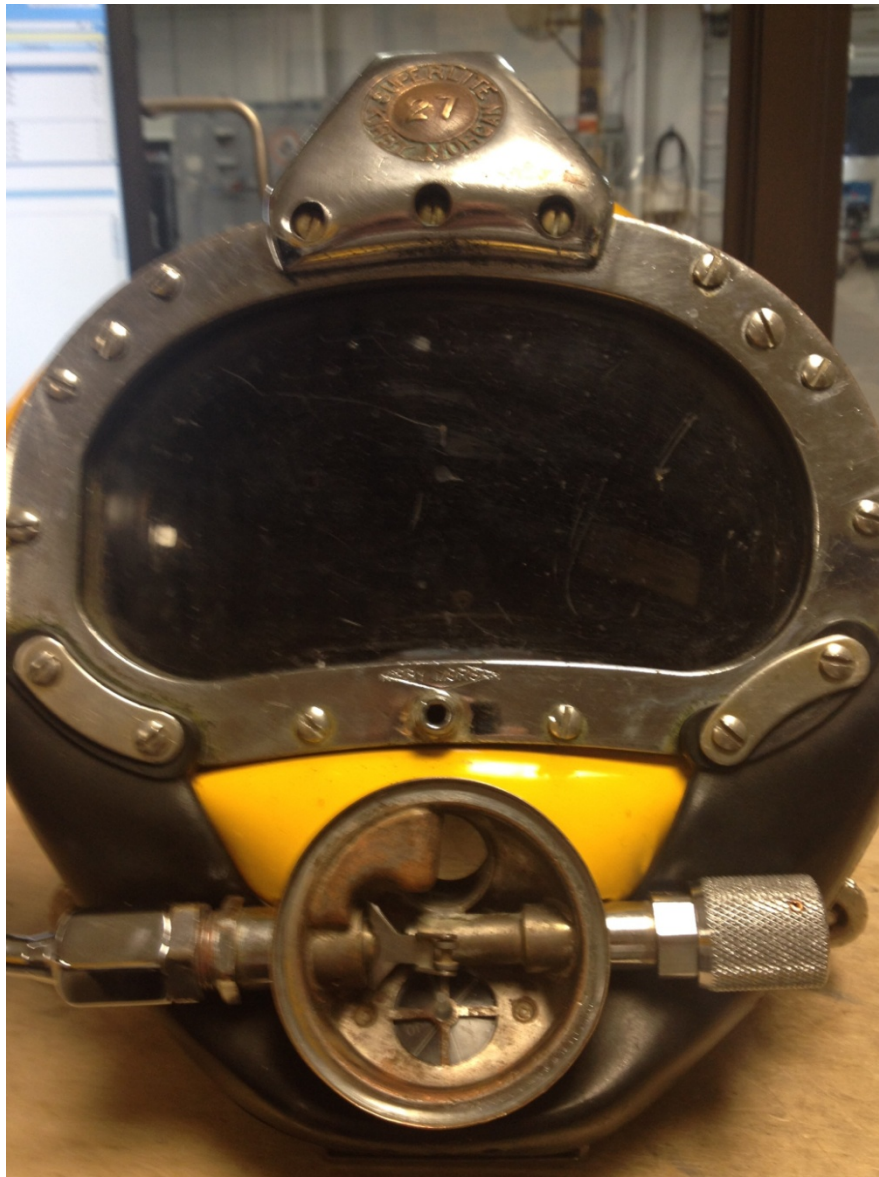
Some of these issues were easily addressed, while others were obviously more serious.

Regardless, all are indicative of a seller creating a false assurance that this helmet had been serviced by a Kirby Morgan technician and that it was fit to dive upon purchase.

Notes/Observations:

- Since the helmet was purchased from an actual diving equipment store/company, the buyer had an added, albeit false, sense of security regarding the helmet's condition and readiness to dive.
- The seller twice claimed that the work was conducted by a "technician", and used the helmet manufacturer's overhaul and inspection forms to support this work. However, there is no evidence that the technician was certified by the manufacturer to conduct the work to begin with, nor was the work actually done to the manufacturer's specifications.
- The helmet had to be completely overhauled by a certified technician in order to ensure safe operation. Unfortunately, the diver had additional out of pocket expenses due to the additional parts and repairs that were required to make it serviceable.
- Had the diver's employer not had a protocol for ensuring the operability of this helmet, the buyer may not have been aware of some of the more serious problems. Worse yet, this helmet could have been used as life support equipment shortly after purchase and, given its condition, it could have caused serious injury or death.

See attached Kirby Morgan Bulletin #1
of 2014 and pictures of the helmet below.



Kidney plate inverted



Both pull-pins sticking, and difficult to push or pull; in need of repair



O-ring missing from steady-flow bonnet



Extra washers on valve stem, valve not serviced



Mud and grit in the steady-flow valve, bonnet grinding in threads



EGS valve body damaged, some sort of plumbers putty on connections



9 out of 10 head/chin cushion snaps broken or missing



Umbilical adapter forced in too far; valve not serviced.



Mud in regulator, old nut, worn soft seat, and regulator not serviced



Damaged inlet knife-edge; does not seal properly



Neck strap inverted



Neck ring screws missing from beneath chin strap retainers



Several face-port screws seized; one had to be drilled for removal



Numerous gouges, some into the fiberglass

DISCLAIMER:

This Safety Alert is designed to prevent similar incidents by communicating the information at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, the information may change over time. It may be necessary to obtain updates from the source before relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.



Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc.®

1430 Jason Way, Santa Maria, California 93455

Phone: 805/928-7772 Fax: 805/928-0342

www.kirbymorgan.com e-mail: info@kirbymorgan.com

Bulletin #1 of 2014. March 3, 2014 Caution Bulletin Unauthorized Sellers / Buyer Beware!

Beware!

It has been brought to the attention of commercial diving industry professionals that some Kirby Morgan® products (primarily spare parts) are being sold to unwary customers through unauthorized channels, such as from mobile “shops”; that is, parts sold out of trucks or vans, by un-licensed, un-certified persons that do not have the knowledge, authority, or support to back up their sales with service, warranties, or verification that these parts are correct or genuine.

Other businesses taking advantage of those unaware are unauthorized dive shops, supply houses, trading companies, online shopping websites, etc., falsely claiming to be “authorized distributors” or dealers for the products they sell.

This is of utmost concern to Kirby Morgan Dive Systems® due to the fact that customers may not be receiving genuine Kirby Morgan® parts; the correct parts required for properly maintaining their Kirby Morgan® life support equipment.

⚠ WARNING

Though same or similar in appearance and packaging to the “real thing”, parts obtained from unauthorized sellers may possibly be counterfeit, may not be of the correct specifications, material, or quality, and therefore may lead to improper function or failure of your Kirby Morgan® Mask or Helmet, causing serious injury or death!

Buyer Beware! Always buy your Kirby Morgan® parts from an **authorized** Kirby Morgan® Dealer. All authorized Kirby Morgan® dealers are listed on our website, www.kirbymorgan.com/dealers.

Also, as seen throughout our product manuals and literature:

⚠ CAUTION

Use only KMDSI original replacement parts. The use of other manufacturers' parts will interfere with the performance characteristics of your life support equipment and may jeopardize your safety. Additionally, any substitutions will void any warranties offered by KMDSI. When ordering spares, always insist on Kirby Morgan® Genuine Parts.

Please contact your local KMDSI Dealer or e-mail sales@kirbymorgan.com for more information.