



Shropshire

Fire and Rescue Service

Contents	Page No	
Purpose	1	Brigade Order Technical 5
Strategic aims and objectives	1	
Roles, responsibilities and review	1	
Introduction	2	
Critical information	2	
Operational information	3	Part 7
Technical information	4	Section 1
		Water rescue safety helmet

Reference

Author

Status

Date

TECH5PT7SECT1

D Groucott

New

11/07

Part 7 – Water rescue safety helmet

Purpose

To provide users with a description and guidance in the use of water rescue safety helmets.

Strategic aims and objectives

Strategic Aim 3 – “Secure the highest level of safety and welfare for all staff by providing effective supervision, training, equipment and systems of work.”

Corporate Objective 9 – “Ensure the provision and availability of appropriate equipment, resources and supplier support.”

Roles, responsibilities and review

The **Resources Manager** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

The **Officers-in-Charge** will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Equipment Contracts Manager** will review this order biennially in **November** and as and when organisational changes take place.

Reason for issue

- Review of existing equipment
- Adaptation/modification of existing equipment
- Initial issue of equipment
- Other: Review of document

Introduction

The Mk. 10 'Gecko' Marine Safety Helmet (GMSH) is designed for use in a marine environment for operators of small craft and for personnel involved in waterborne activities who require head protection. It is not designed or intended for land based activities.

Critical information

Description

The outer shell - The outer shell is a two-part fibre glass construction, fluted in order to increase strength and rigidity, shaped to provide maximum protection whilst still allowing full peripheral vision. The shell shape encompasses larger head sizes and provides good protective coverage.

The helmet is designed to allow interaction with existing rescue equipment such as the lifejacket; communication is enhanced by built-in ear vents and the shell offers good energy absorption and resistance to penetration.

The internal liner - The helmet is lined with an inflatable liner system which ensures a true custom fit. The liner is fitted with an adjustable control valve; this allows the wearer to adjust the fit of the helmet very precisely for maximum comfort and a secure fit.

The retention system - The helmet is secured by a nylon webbing strap system which is locked together and adjusted by means of a click-system buckle. The straps are anchored using corrosion resistant 2-part rivets/studs fixed to the outer shell. The strap has a riveted loop at one end large enough to facilitate adjustment with a gloved hand. The whole assembly is sheathed in a neoprene tube to provide comfort and to prevent rubbing.

Size

The helmet is designed to fit across the size range 57 – 62 cms, adjustable by means of the inflatable bladder liner.

Operational information

The helmet is made to absorb the energy of a blow by partial destruction or damage to the helmet and, even though such damage may not be readily apparent, any helmet subjected to severe impact should be replaced.

The helmet is cut high at the nape of the neck to prevent interference with a lifejacket. This also allows greater freedom of head movement during use, including entering the water where swimming is a possibility.

Reference	Author	Status	Date	Page
OPS5PT7SECT1	D Groucott	New	11/07	2 of 4

Size adjustment

For correct protection, the helmet has to be adjusted to the size of the users head. Adjustment is carried out by means of inflating or deflating the liner bladder using the clear plastic inflation tube and mouth piece valve.

The inflatable liner bladder is secured into the helmet only at two points. This will allow the bladder to inflate freely to accommodate the appropriate size.

- To fit the helmet and to make sizing easier it is recommended that the liner bladder is first deflated. This is achieved by gently pulling open the red mouth piece valve by the outer ring. Place the end of the valve in the mouth and draw the air out of the bladder (partial deflation is normally sufficient dependant on head size), then close the valve by pushing inwards to retain the vacuum.
- Place helmet on the head so that the brim of the helmet is just above the eyebrow line and the ears are located within the ear apertures. With the strap undone, inflate the liner bladder by pulling out the outer ring, this will allow air to be drawn in automatically by atmospheric pressure. Increasing or decreasing the pressure within the liner bladder will help ascertain the correct level of tension.
- Once the correct pressure has been achieved, push the valve to close it. The valve must be closed at all times unless adjusting the tension.
- Working hard or in a high ambient temperature may increase the pressure in the liner bladder and this may be adjusted by releasing pressure to improve wearer comfort.
- The chin strap assembly should then be secured and adjusted. Adjustment of the strap is achieved by gently pulling on the looped tab. The loop allows adjustment with a gloved hand. The strap must be tensioned correctly and secured at all times during use. The neoprene sleeve holds in place the looped end of the chin strap and the inflation tube.

Care and maintenance

The helmets are personal issue and it is the responsibility of the wearer to ensure that their helmet is in a safe and usable condition.

Care should be taken when stowing the helmet to ensure that it is preferably stowed in the upright position and nothing is stowed on top of it. Careless stowage of the helmet can cause the sides to bend and eventually crack.

After use, examine the helmet to confirm it is free from wear and damage. Examine the strap anchor points along with the buckle to ensure it is in working order. Ensure the shell is intact and the adjustable liner is fully functioning.

Reference	Author	Status	Date	Page
OPS5PT7SECT1	D Groucott	New	11/07	3 of 4

Do not apply paint, solvents, adhesives or self-adhesive labels, except in accordance with instructions from the helmet manufacturer.

After use, the helmet can be washed in fresh water and allowed to dry before storing in a clean and safe environment out of direct sunlight.

The helmet will be professionally inspected 3 years after being brought into use. This will be arranged by Technical Services.

Any defects should be reported to Technical Services

Technical information

The range of the B.S.I head forms used for testing, date of manufacture (week and year) and unique identification number are all recorded on the outside of the helmet.

The MK 10 G.M.S.H meets the requirements of the BSI Specification PS 028:2002 for Marine Safety Helmets.

The helmet weighs 700 grams.