



FOR MODEL NUMBERS MD4031 AND MD4032

OWNER'S MANUAL

M.I.T. 70

MD4031 INFLATABLE FLOTATION DEVICE
MANUAL INFLATION MODEL

APPROVED BY UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD AND TRANSPORT CANADA

WARNING: THE MD4031 WILL NOT
INFLATE AUTOMATICALLY UPON
IMMERSION. TAB MUST BE PULLED TO
ACTIVATE INFLATION MECHANISM.

MD4032 INFLATABLE FLOTATION DEVICE
MANUAL WITH AUTOMATIC BACKUP
INFLATION MODEL

APPROVED BY UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD AND TRANSPORT CANADA

DO NOT REMOVE PRIOR TO SALE
HT1152 REV 3SEPT2019

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ABOUT THIS PRODUCT

The **MIT 70** (which includes models **MD4031** and **MD4032**) is from Mustang Survival's Inshore Flotation series, specifically designed for activities where adventurers can see the shore in calm or inland waters.

Your Mustang Survival MIT 70 flotation device is the smallest approved inflatable flotation device, designed for multi-sport individuals seeking a versatile solution. It is discreet and lightweight and can support any adventure without compromising safety in inshore conditions.

Here are some of the features that set this product apart, and make it particularly well suited to many inshore activities:

- Automatically inflates upon water immersion (**MD4032 only**)
- Manually inflates by pulling the inflator pull-tab
- Exclusive Membrane Inflatable Technology™ (M.I.T.) creates a lightweight, flexible fit
- Easy-access inflator eases re-arming
- Provides at least 70 Newtons (15.7 lbs) buoyancy when inflated
- High visibility, contrasting fabric when inflated increases visibility in rescue scenarios
- Belt extender sold separately (model MA7637)

This flotation device is designed for wearers over 16 years of age, with a chest range of 76-132 cm (30-52 inches), and weighing over 41 kg (90 lbs).

WHAT IS AN INFLATABLE FLOTATION DEVICE?

While traditional flotation devices are inherently buoyant, this flotation device relies entirely on inflation for buoyancy. Uninflated, your device is designed to offer maximum mobility with minimum bulk. **The MIT 70** is a comfortable slim collar that can be inflated at any time with a 17-gram carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas cylinder to provide at least 70 Newtons (15.7 lbs) buoyancy. **The MD4031 model** can be inflated either manually by jerking a pull-tab or orally (by mouth). **The MD4032 model** can be inflated either automatically during water immersion, manually by jerking a pull-tab, or orally (by mouth). We recommend that you familiarize yourself with your device as described in “Instructions for Use,” page 4.

AIRLINE OPERATOR POLICY ON CARRIAGE OF INFLATABLE PFDs AND CO₂ CARTRIDGES

Please be aware that regulations may apply to the air transport of this product. With the approval of the aircraft operator, CO₂ cylinder(s) may be carried by a passenger or crew in checked or carry-on baggage.

Please consult airline operator policy.

APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

This inflatable flotation device is approved by Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard. It is not approved for white water paddling, water skiing or other high impact, high speed activities. This inflatable flotation device was designed to be more comfortable and less restrictive to wear than inherently buoyant flotation devices. When worn, used, and serviced according to this owner’s manual, this flotation device can greatly increase your chances of survival in the water. Not recommended for non-swimmers or weak swimmers. Users of this inflatable flotation device must be at least 16 years old.

MANDATORY CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada require you to carry approved flotation devices of the correct size for each person on board that are legibly marked with an approval number and are in good and serviceable condition. To be considered serviceable, this flotation device shall not exhibit deterioration that could diminish its performance such as broken or deformed hardware, detached webbing, rotted structural components, air leaks, or nonfunctional oral inflation tube. Unless worn inflated, this flotation device must also be properly armed with a full CO₂ cylinder, inflation system status indicator, and an accessible manual inflation lanyard. A flotation device which is “approved only when worn” or “required to be worn” must be worn under the specified conditions.

WHY ARE FLOTATION DEVICES REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Drowning is the leading cause of fatalities involving recreational boating. In over 80 percent of fatal incidents the person was not wearing flotation, and most of these occurred after falls overboard or capsize of small boats. An approved flotation device, when worn, helps raise your head above water in the first critical moments of immersion. Some devices are designed to keep you face up in the water, and increase your chances for survival and rescue. Different body types float differently, and some boating activities require special features in a flotation device.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE

Because your flotation device is designed to save your life, you need to be comfortable using it and thoroughly familiar with how it works. If you just purchased or have not yet used your flotation device, Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard recommend that you immediately test it as described in “How and Why to Test Your Flotation Device,” page 18. This will not only ensure your device is in good condition, it will give you experience using all methods of inflation.

After initial testing, get in the habit of inspecting your flotation device before each use, re-arming it after each use, and of course wearing it every time you go out on the water.

INSPECTING COMPONENTS

Before each use, check your flotation device for readiness:

1. Place your flotation device on a flat surface with the bottom of the device facing you. At the bottom of the left lobe, lift the inflator cover to expose the inflator and cylinder assembly. Examine the service indicator to ensure it is green (Fig. 1). If the service indicator is red, the mechanism has been fired or is incorrectly fitted and must be re-armed (see “Re-arming” on page 10 for MD4031 or page 12 for MD4032). **The service indicator must be GREEN before you proceed.**

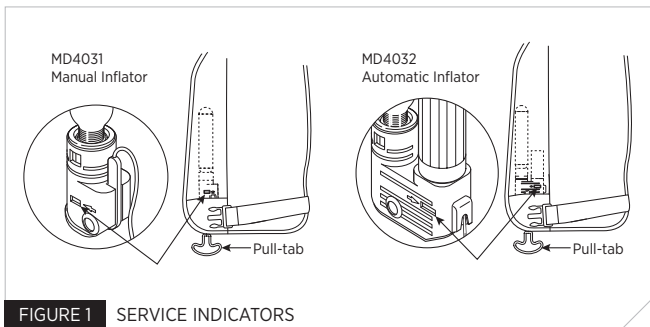


FIGURE 1 SERVICE INDICATORS

2. For the **MD4032 only**: Ensure the bobbin is valid. The flotation device, or bobbin, must have been purchased within the last three years.

If you do not know the purchase date, check the date printed on the bobbin. If it is earlier than three years ago, re-arm your flotation device (see “Re-arming” on page 12).

3. Undo the hook and loop strips along both sides of the flotation device.
4. Ensure the oral-inflation cap is in the stowed position (Fig. 6).
5. Check for damage or excessive abrasion, wear, tear and/or any visible foreign matter, such as mildew or oil stains. Check that all seams are secure, and all straps and hardware are sound. If you see any signs of damage, perform the “Every Six Months” tests, described in “Care and Maintenance,” page 16.
6. Ensure the pull-tab lanyard is hanging on the outside, and secure the hook and loop strips on both sides of the flotation device.

**CONTACT YOUR MUSTANG DEALER IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS
ABOUT THE READINESS OF YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE.**

USE AT COLD TEMPERATURES

As temperatures approach freezing, your flotation device will provide less buoyancy and will inflate more slowly. At temperatures near freezing, the device should be worn *partially inflated* with the CO₂ cylinder to ensure that some buoyancy is immediately available to you if you fall overboard. The oral inflator can then be used to adequately top up the flotation device after CO₂ inflation.

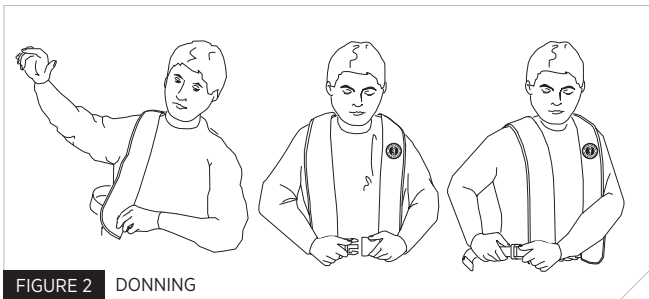
Caution: Do not fully inflate the device orally and then activate the CO₂ cylinder. The resulting overpressure could seriously damage the device resulting in loss of flotation.

Inflatable flotation devices are not recommended for use in temperatures below freezing.

PUTTING IT ON (DONNING)

It is important that your flotation device fits properly. Incorrect fit or improper fastening of attachments could impede its effectiveness.

1. Put the flotation device on just like a vest (Fig. 2), with the fabric panels in the front, and fasten the front buckle.
2. Adjust the waist belt using its side buckle, and secure the belt's loose end with the belt loop. All belts and straps are already threaded correctly and only need to be adjusted for fit. The belt should sit below your rib cage, tightened to fit snugly.



3. Check the fit by pinching the belt strap, just as you would a waistband. If you can pinch the material together, tighten your flotation device.

Wear it on the outside and intact!

Always wear inflatable flotation devices over clothing (as the outermost layer) to avoid restricted inflation, which could cause personal injury and/or damage to your device.

Do not tie or sew anything to the outside of (or around) your flotation device, as it may compromise your device's ability to inflate.

TAKING IT OFF (DOFFING)

1. If your flotation device has been inflated, partially deflate it while still wearing it to make doffing easier.
2. Loosen your waist belt and unfasten the front buckle.
3. Slip your arms out of the straps.

INFLATING

Your flotation device inflates manually, orally, and (for MD4032 only) automatically. No matter how your flotation device inflates, it can always be topped up orally – extending your ability to keep afloat.

The inflation instructions below use ‘left’ and ‘right’ assuming you are wearing the flotation device during inflation – so your left or right is also the device’s.

1. Manually

Activate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the pull-tab (Fig. 3). The flotation device should fully inflate within five seconds.

2. Automatically as backup (MD4032)

Inflation will occur automatically within 10 seconds after the inflator is immersed in water. The water-sensing bobbin will disintegrate, triggering a spring-loaded plunger, which punctures the CO₂ cylinder (Fig. 8 and 9) to inflate the flotation device. **See also “Special Considerations for Automatic Devices,” next page.**

3. Orally

To orally inflate the flotation device, first locate the oral inflation tube by opening your left front panel. Remove the cap from the end of the oral tube and blow into the tube until the flotation device is fully inflated (Fig. 4). Place the oral tube cap back in the stowed position (Fig. 6).

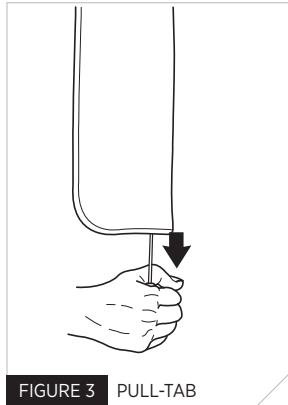


FIGURE 3 PULL-TAB

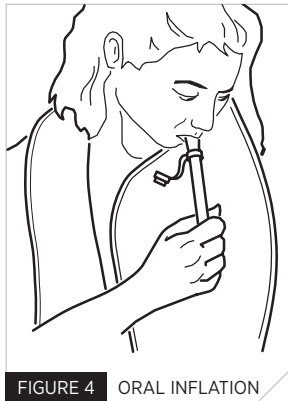


FIGURE 4 ORAL INFLATION

CO₂ ESCAPES THROUGH THE MATERIAL OVER TIME

Manual (and automatic) inflation uses carbon dioxide (CO₂ gas) to fill your flotation device. Over time, the CO₂ gas will slowly escape through the fabric, and you may feel that the flotation device is losing pressure. If you're in the water for a prolonged period, you may need to top up your device orally.

AVOID DOUBLE INFLATION!

Do not manually or automatically activate the inflator when your flotation device is filled with air. Doing so will result in excessively high pressure within the inflation chamber, which may cause permanent damage to your device and/or extreme discomfort to you.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR AUTOMATIC DEVICES

(MD4032)

The flotation device might not be armed when needed, either knowingly or unknowingly, which is why before each use you should inspect the inflator and ensure the service indicator is green.

Another consideration is premature automatic inflation, which can occur in certain conditions, including when the device is subjected to heavy splashing, high humidity, heavy fog, and heavy rain. If you are using the device in these types of conditions, you may choose to instead use a manual device or an automatic device where the inflator requires hydrostatic pressure to activate.

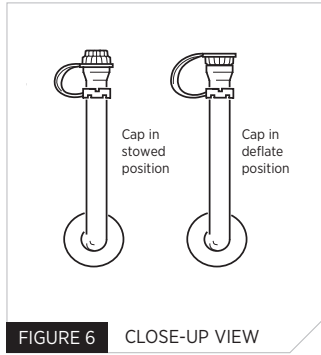
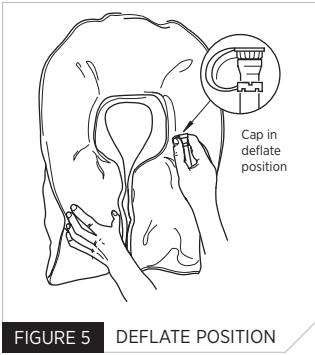
Premature inflation when you are in an awkward place or position could cause personal injury and/or damage to the device. Premature inflation when the device is stored in a tight space could cause damage.

If this flotation device should inflate prematurely, you must re-arm according to the instructions in this manual, using a re-arm kit (MA4031).

DEFLATING

Complete deflation is easiest when you are not wearing the flotation device.

1. To deflate the flotation device, reverse the oral inflator cap and insert it into the valve. The cap will not lock in the deflate position, so you must hold it in place (Fig. 5).
2. Gently squeeze the flotation device until all air or gas has been expelled. Put the cap back in its stowed position on the oral inflator (Fig. 6).



RE-ARMING (MD4031)

To re-arm your flotation device, you will need Mustang Survival's Re-Arm Kit MA4031. The spent inflation parts will first be removed, and replacement parts will be installed. The re-arm kit includes:

- 17g CO₂ cylinder
 - Bobbin (which you will not use for MD4031)
1. Place your flotation device on a flat surface with the bottom of the device facing you.
 2. Open the inflator cover to expose the manual inflator (Fig. 7).
 3. Remove the cylinder/bayonet assembly by turning it counterclockwise and then pulling it out. **Discard the used cylinder/bayonet assembly.**
 4. Check the new cylinder/bayonet assembly to ensure the o-ring is in place and the sensor ring is attached (Fig. 7). Ensure that the CO₂ cylinder has not been pierced (Fig. 8).
 5. Raise, and hold, the lever into the inflator housing. Install a new cylinder/bayonet assembly by engaging bayonet tabs in housing, pushing in, then turning clockwise 1/8 turn to a full stop (Fig. 7).

FLOTATION DEVICE WILL ONLY INFLATE IF CYLINDER IS TURNED TO A FULL STOP.

6. Examine the service indicator (Fig. 7) and ensure it is GREEN. If the service indicator is red, the mechanism has been fired or is incorrectly fitted and the inflator requires service.
7. Ensure you have successfully re-armed by performing a leak test (see "Care and Maintenance/Every Six Months," page 16). (If the cylinder is improperly installed, the o-ring won't make a proper seal and the air will leak around it.)

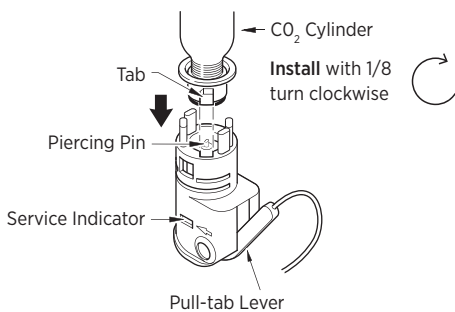
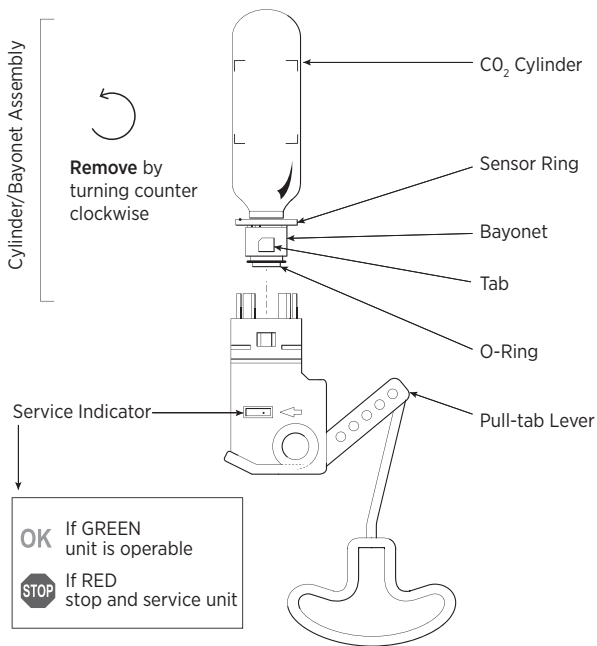
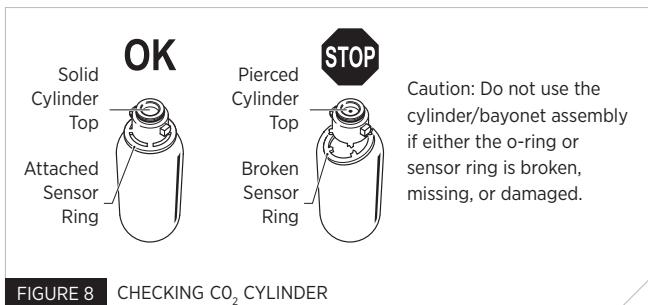


FIGURE 7 MD4031 MANUAL INFLATOR



RE-ARMING (MD4032)

To re-arm your flotation device, you will need Mustang Survival's Re-Arm Kit MA4031. The spent inflation parts will first be removed, and replacement parts will be installed. The re-arm kit includes:

- 17g CO₂ cylinder
 - Bobbin
1. Place your flotation device on a flat surface with the bottom of the device facing you.
 2. Open the inflator cover to expose the automatic inflator (Fig. 9).
 3. Remove the cylinder/bayonet assembly by turning it counterclockwise and then pulling it out. **Discard the used cylinder/bayonet assembly.**
 4. Remove the cap by turning counterclockwise. (Fig. 9).
 5. Remove yellow bobbin from cap or housing unit. **Discard the bobbin.** (Make sure to *completely* remove the bobbin from the housing and the cap assembly before re-arming. If any part of the bobbin remains, you cannot properly re-arm your flotation device.)
 6. Check the housing to be sure it is clear and dry. If necessary, rinse the inflator with fresh water to remove dirt and salt. Let dry before going to step 7.
 7. Inspect the bobbin. If the bobbin has been fired or damaged, replace it! Ensure the new bobbin is valid. It must have been purchased within the last three years. If you do not know the purchase date, check the date printed on the bobbin. If it is earlier than three years ago, replace the bobbin.

Cylinder/Bayonet Assembly

Remove by turning counter clockwise

CO₂ Cylinder

Sensor Ring

Bayonet

Tab

O-Ring

Cap

Yellow Bobbin (white side up)

Housing

Housing Shoulder

Service Indicator

Lever

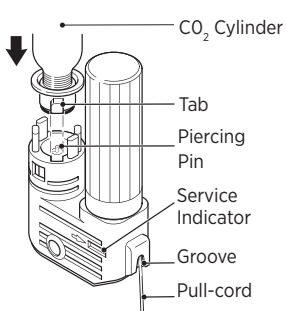
Pull-tab

OK

If GREEN unit is operable

STOP

If RED stop and service unit



Install with 1/8 turn clockwise

FIGURE 9 MD4032 AUTOMATIC INFLATOR

8. Install the bobbin into the housing (Fig. 9), white side up, aligning the slots on the bobbin with the ridges inside the threaded housing. The bobbin will slide in easily.
9. Install the cap by screwing clockwise until it meets the housing shoulder.
10. Check the new cylinder/bayonet assembly to ensure the o-ring is in place and the sensor ring is attached (Fig. 9). Ensure that the CO₂ cylinder has not been pierced (Fig. 8).

YOU WILL DAMAGE THE SENSOR RING IF BOBBIN AND CAP ARE NOT INSTALLED FIRST.

11. Push, and hold, the lever into the inflator housing. The pull-cord should be situated in the groove (Fig. 9). Install a new cylinder/bayonet assembly by engaging bayonet tabs in housing, pushing in, then turning clockwise 1/8 turn to a full stop (Fig. 9).

FLOTATION DEVICE WILL ONLY INFLATE IF CYLINDER IS TURNED TO A FULL STOP.

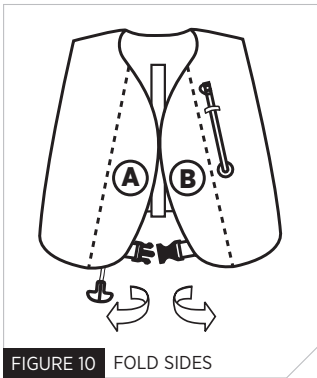
12. Examine the service indicator (Fig. 9) and ensure it is GREEN. If the service indicator is red, the mechanism has been fired or is incorrectly fitted and the inflator requires service.
13. Ensure you have successfully re-armed by performing a leak test (see “Care and Maintenance/Every Six Months,” page 16). (If the cylinder is improperly installed, the o-ring won’t make a proper seal and the air will leak around it.)

REPACKING

Repacking should only be done after deflating and re-arming the flotation device.

1. Fold sides (A) and (B) outward along dotted lines. Engage the hook and loop strips (Fig. 10).
2. Make sure the inflator pull-tab hangs out from the bottom of the folded flotation device.

Fig. 11 depicts a correctly folded flotation device.



IS YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION?

Check your flotation device between outings to be sure that it is properly armed; that it is free of rips, tears, or holes; that all seams are securely sewn; and that the fabric, straps, and hardware are still strong. Inspect the inflatable portion of the flotation device in accordance with “Care and Maintenance,” next page.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure your flotation device performs when you need it, you must care for and maintain it in serviceable condition (see “Mandatory Carriage Requirements,” page 3). Failure to follow these instructions rigorously could result in a non-functioning flotation device causing injury or death. We suggest you keep a record of the inspections performed on your flotation device – using permanent ink on the Care and Storage label below the oral inflation tube. If you are not confident that you can care for and maintain your flotation device, or if you are in doubt about these instructions, contact Mustang Survival customer service.

You are required to check this flotation device:

- Before each wear (component inspection)
- Every six months (leak test and thorough visual examination)
- After each inflation (perform re-arm)
- Annually (suggested at the beginning of each boating season)

BEFORE EACH WEAR

See “Inspecting Components,” page 4, for instructions. If you see any signs of damage, perform the “Every Six Months” tests below.

EVERY SIX MONTHS

The following tests are suggested every six months at minimum or whenever you see signs of damage to your flotation device. Perform these tests more often if the flotation device is exposed to potential damage or used in extreme conditions.

• **Leak Test**

Orally inflate your flotation device until firm and let stand six hours minimum. As long as your flotation device has been inflated orally (not by CO₂ cylinder) it should hold its firmness for this length of time. If this is not the case, your flotation device is leaking and should be replaced. If your flotation device leaks, contact Mustang Survival customer service.

• **Thorough Visual Examination**

See “Inspecting Components,” page 4.

AFTER EACH INFLATION

Deflate and re-arm, as described in “Re-arming,” page 10 for MD4031 or page 12 for MD4032.

ANNUALLY

Perform the following at the beginning of each boating season, after inflation, or whenever the integrity of the flotation device is in doubt:

1. Check all components for dirt or corrosion (see “Inspecting Components,” page 4). Clean or replace as necessary.
2. Visually examine your flotation device for damage or excessive abrasion, wear, tear, or contamination. Particular attention must be paid to the stitching, straps, and hardware. If in doubt, contact Mustang Survival customer service for evaluation and/or servicing.
3. Perform the Leak Test as outlined on previous page.
4. Deflate as outlined in “Deflating,” page 9.
5. Ensure service indicator is green.
6. Record the date, noting “annual” in permanent ink on the Care and Storage label, located below the oral inflation tube.

CLEANING AND STORING

To clean your flotation device:

- Hand wash flotation device or sponge it down in warm, soapy water, taking care not to expose the inflator to water.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger.
- Store the dry flotation device in a warm, dry, and well ventilated place out of direct sunlight.

DO NOT DRY-CLEAN, USE CHLORINE BLEACH, OR APPLY DIRECT HEAT.

HOW AND WHY TO TEST YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE

An inflatable device does not have inherent buoyancy, meaning that it must be inflated to provide flotation. You must understand how to arm, inflate, and maintain your inflatable device. Familiarize yourself with the use of your flotation device so you know what to do in an emergency.

Always test your flotation device in a safe manner, under controlled conditions, and where help is readily available.

Inflate your flotation device and try it out in a pool, or some other calm protected water, with proper supervision.

Make sure it floats you

- Comfortably (when worn properly)
- Adequately for expected wave conditions (body shapes/densities affect performance)

Make sure it works

- A flow of bubbles should not appear (See “Care and Maintenance/ Every Six Months,” page 16, for Leak Test)
- It should inflate quickly and easily

Learn how it works

- Activate the CO₂ inflation system
- Re-arm the CO₂ inflation system
- Use the oral inflation tube

To properly test your flotation device and to ensure you have a replacement re-arming kit, you should purchase two re-arming kits: one to be used immediately in testing the manual (for MD4031) or automatic (for MD4032) inflation system and the other to carry on board as a spare. Remember you must re-arm your flotation device after discharging the CO₂ cartridge.

For MD4032

You should test the automatic inflation system in the water at the beginning of each boating season. This includes inspecting the bobbin's purchase date and discarding the bobbin if it has not been purchased within the last three years OR discarding if the element has been exposed to gas, oil, water, or high humidity. By doing this, you demonstrate that the automatic inflation system is still working properly and reduce the likelihood of premature inflation and its associated dangers.

For Both MD4031 and MD4032

Check the manual inflation system by first removing the CO₂ cylinder/bayonet assembly: rotate counterclockwise and pull out. On the flotation device, move the lever (attached to the pull-tab) several times down and up to determine that the lever arm and piercing pin move freely. There should be no binding of the mechanical parts.

TRYING YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE

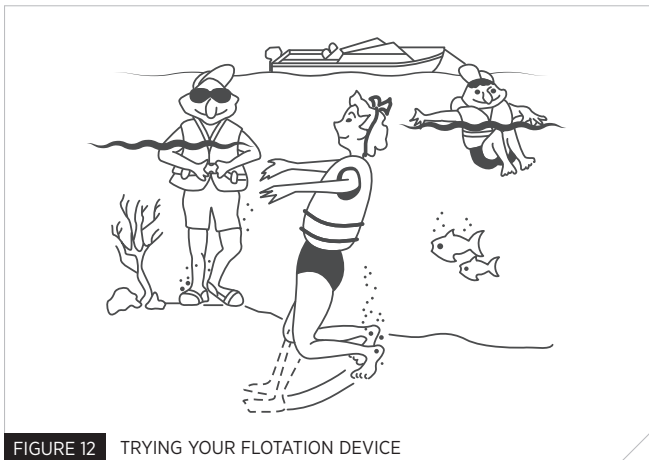


FIGURE 12 TRYING YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE

Try on your flotation device to see if the fit is comfortably snug. Then test it in shallow water to see how it handles. To check the buoyancy of your flotation device in the water, relax your body and let your head tilt back. Make sure your flotation device keeps your chin above water and you can breathe easily.

YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE MAY NOT ACT THE SAME IN SWIFT OR ROUGH WATER AS IN CALM WATER. THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR AND THE ITEMS IN YOUR POCKETS MAY ALSO CHANGE THE WAY YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE WORKS.

If your mouth is not well above the water, get a new flotation device or one with more buoyancy.

A flotation device is designed not to ride up on the body when in the water. But when the wearer's stomach is larger than the chest, ride-up may occur. Before use, test this flotation device in the water to establish that excessive ride-up does not impair performance.

In order to understand how your inflatable operates you should inflate it. Depending on the type of inflatable you have you can inflate it automatically, manually, or by the oral inflator. The following sections will guide you through each process.

HOW TO TEST YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE USING THE AUTOMATIC INFLATOR (FOR MD4032 ONLY)

Always test your flotation device in a safe manner, under controlled conditions, where help is readily available.

- A1.** To test your flotation device, you will need:
 - your fully armed device
 - the re-arming kit approved for your device (MA4031)
- A2.** Put on the flotation device.
- A3.** Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface. Once the inflator is underwater, the flotation device should fully inflate automatically within 10 seconds.
- A4.** See if the flotation device will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
- A5.** Get out of the water and remove the flotation device. Remove the used CO₂ cylinder/bayonet assembly and the used bobbin from the flotation device.
- A6.** Deflate the flotation device by depressing the oral inflation tube (see "Deflating," page 9).
- A7.** Let the flotation device dry thoroughly. Re-arm and repack the flotation device (see "Re-arming," page 12; see "Repacking," page 15).

HOW TO TEST YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE USING THE MANUAL INFLATOR

Always test your flotation device in a safe manner, under controlled conditions, where help is readily available.

- M1.** To test your flotation device, you will need:
 - your fully armed device
 - the re-arming kit approved for your device (MA4031)
- M2.** Put on the flotation device.
- M3.** Activate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the pull-tab. The flotation device should fully inflate within five seconds.
- M4.** Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
- M5.** See if the flotation device will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
- M6.** Get out of the water and remove the flotation device. Remove the CO₂ cylinder/bayonet assembly from the inflator. Completely deflate the flotation device using the oral inflation tube (see "Deflating," page 9).
- M7.** Let the flotation device dry thoroughly. Re-arm and repack the flotation device (see "Re-arming," page 10 for MD4031 or page 12 for MD4032; see "Repacking," page 15).

HOW TO TEST YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE USING THE ORAL INFLATOR

Always test your flotation device in a safe manner, under controlled conditions, where help is readily available.

You will not need any spare parts, or re-arming kits, to test your flotation device with oral inflation, and it gives you the opportunity to learn about how much inflation is needed to float you.

- 01.** Remove the CO₂ cylinder/bayonet assembly to prevent inadvertent inflation, which could potentially damage the flotation device. Inspect the cylinder to confirm it is unused (Fig. 8). Unscrew and remove the cap and the bobbin (for MD4032 only). Otherwise the bobbin will disintegrate during water immersion.
- 02.** Put on the flotation device. Locate and release the oral tube from its cover.
- 03.** Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
- 04.** To learn how much inflation is needed to float you, blow a full breath into the oral tube and then try lifting your feet from the bottom to see if your airway stays clear of the water. If not, try adding another breath and lifting your feet, and then another if needed and so forth so that you are supported well enough to be able to complete inflation without touching bottom or treading water. There may be situations where you wish to wear your device partially inflated (see “Using Your Device in Cold Temperatures,” page 5). However, when you are immersed in the water, your device must be fully inflated to function as designed and approved.
- 05.** Remember: as your breath air cools down, it contracts in volume. You may require more topping up breaths to maintain this level. This level of inflation may be the level of partial inflation to use where complete manual or automatic inflation could be delayed.
- 06.** Then see if the turning characteristics of the flotation device are different with this level of flotation, as they most likely will be.
- 07.** Fully inflate the flotation device using the oral inflation tube.
- 08.** See if the flotation device will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water’s surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
- 09.** Get out of the water and remove the flotation device. Completely deflate the flotation device using the oral inflator (see “Deflating,” page 9).
- 010.** Let the flotation device dry thoroughly. Re-arm and Repack the flotation device (see “Re-arming,” page 10 for MD4031 or page 12 for MD4032; see “Repacking,” page 15).

CHOOSE A FLOTATION DEVICE THAT YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

A good choice for a flotation device is one that will offer sufficient buoyancy for your size and body type to raise your airway (mouth and nose) above water. Also important is comfort and mobility out of the water so that it can be worn at all times during your boating activity. An increased performance level (more flotation and turning) should be considered when in rougher waters or when further offshore where rescue assistance may be a long time coming. Some activities require special features or accessories for better visibility, for a more secure fit in wave conditions, and for thermal protection.

COLD SHOCK

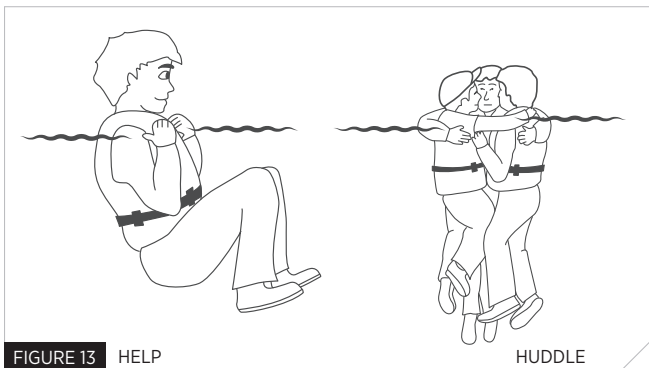
Unexpected immersion (even in moderately cold water) can cause involuntary gasping and loss of muscle control. It can take one minute or more for these reactions to subside, and there is a risk of inhaling water. You really need the support of a flotation device in this situation. In colder water, swim failure can occur even for strong and experienced swimmers. Trying to put on and fasten a flotation device after immersion can be impossible. Remember that on a hot sunny day the water can still be cool, and the effect of sudden immersion is shocking to the nervous and breathing systems. Choosing a comfortable device and being diligent about wearing it can save you in these critical first moments.

HYPOTHERMIA

Prolonged immersion in cold water (after one hour or more) leads to a loss of body heat. Over time (depending on water temperature, body type, and thermal protection) the core temperature of the body decreases. This produces a condition called hypothermia, which is very serious and can lead to unconsciousness and circulatory failure.

Swimming and treading water accelerates heat loss. Wearing a flotation device is essential to help you conserve body energy and increase your survival time. It enables you to float quietly and curl up arms and legs in a Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP) with the head out of water, reducing heat loss from the head, under the arms, and the groin area (see “HELP,” Fig. 13). If there is more than one person in the water, gathering together in a huddle is recommended while waiting to be rescued (see “Huddle,” Fig. 13).

Preparation, good safety practices, and strong spirit are the keys to survival. Stay calm and don't give up.



MAKE SURE YOUR DEVICE FUNCTIONS PROPERLY

For your flotation device to function properly, follow these suggestions to verify that it fits, floats, and remains in good condition.

Your flotation device is intended to help you save your own life.

1. Check the inflation mechanism status indicators before each use.
2. Get in the habit of re-arming the inflation mechanism right after each inflation.
3. Try your flotation device on and adjust it until it fits comfortably in and out of the water.
4. Mark your flotation device with your name if you are the only wearer.
5. Do not alter your flotation device. An altered device is no longer approved. If it doesn't fit properly, get one that does.
6. Your flotation device is not intended for use as a fender or kneeling pad.
7. If your flotation device is wet, allow it to dry thoroughly before storing it. Store it in a well ventilated area.
8. Do not dry your flotation device in front of a radiator or other source of direct heat.

DO NOT ATTACH FLOTATION DEVICES TO YOUR BOAT

Each flotation device has straps, hooks, buckles, or other means for securing the device in place on the wearer. Some flotation devices also incorporate decorative D-rings or tabs. Such items are not to be used to attach the device to the boat. Attaching the device to the boat will not permit it to perform as intended.