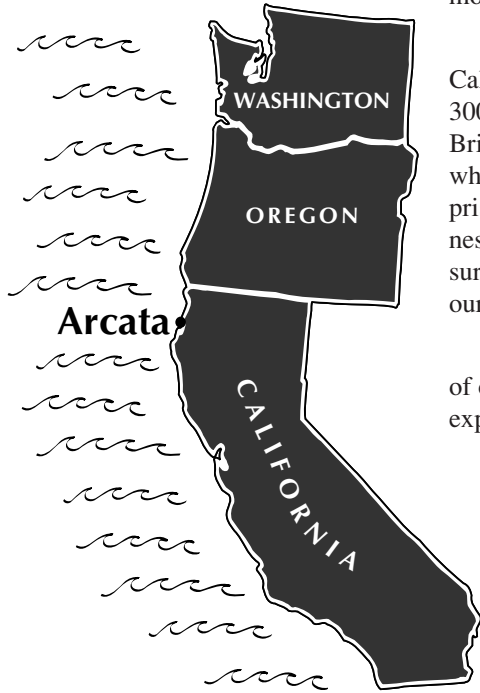


The company now known as Kokatat was started in 1971 by a college student named Steve O'Meara with an eye towards making innovative outdoor gear. With Steve still at the helm, our company continues to dedicate itself to his original intent, offering the industry's most extensive line of watersports wear.



We're located in the small northern California coastal town of Arcata, about 300 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Blessed with awesome whitewater, miles of rugged coastline, pristine bays, lagoons and lakes, all nestled amongst giant redwoods, our surroundings play an important role in our product development.

We test what we sell, we take care of our customers and we speak from experience.

Most of the world is water – what are you waiting for?

Last revision: November, 2005



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OFFICE HOURS:
8 AM - 5 PM (PST)

OWNER'S MANUAL

SeaO₂ HYBRID INFLATABLE LIFE VEST



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.KOKATAT.COM

EMAIL US: KOKATAT@KOKATAT.COM

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PURCHASE!

Kokatat's SeaO₂ hybrid inflatable life vest represents a major breakthrough in PFD technology. By combining the safety and simplicity of an inherently buoyant life vest with the reduced bulk and increased buoyancy of an inflatable, the SeaO₂ offers the best of both worlds.

With foam providing 7.5 lbs buoyancy, the SeaO₂ has less foam than other US Coast Guard approved life vests. This reduces the stiffness and bulk that is common in traditional life vests. While 7.5 lbs inherent buoyancy will comfortably float approximately 70% of the boating public (and provide a substantial swimming aid to the other 30%), there are times when additional buoyancy may be desirable. In these cases the buoyancy of the SeaO₂ can be increased by simply blowing into the oral inflate/deflate tube on the upper chest. In an emergency situation, the SeaO₂ can be instantly inflated to its full 22.5 lbs of buoyancy by pulling on the manual inflate handle, activating the compressed CO₂ cylinder hidden within the body of the vest. The beauty of the SeaO₂ design is that it allows the user to both swim and paddle comfortably even when fully inflated, and is easily deflated and re-armed while being worn.

We recommend you try all the features of the life vest in a pool or calm, safe body of water to thoroughly acquaint yourself with the special functions. Then, get “into the water” with the confidence that Kokatat is dedicated to making your paddling experience safer and more enjoyable.

To ensure that you are educated on proper use of your new Kokatat SeaO₂ hybrid inflatable PFD, please take time to thoroughly read the information included in this Owner's Manual and in the Information Pamphlet that accompanies every SeaO₂.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need more information about PFDs and safe recreational boating, contact your state boating authority, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadron, Red Cross, or your nearest unit of the US Coast Guard.

PFDS ATTACHED TO BOAT – NO!

Each PFD has straps, hook, buckles, or other means for securing the device in place on the wearer. Some PFDs 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.

WARNING! AVOIDING OVER-PRESSURIZATION

The SeaO₂'s inflatable chamber is designed to be inflated using ONLY ONE INFLATION SYSTEM at a time. Use of the manually activated compressed CO₂ cylinder while the chamber is partially inflated will result in over-pressurization. The risks of over-pressurization include decreased mobility, discomfort and possible failure of the inflatable chamber.

PERMEATION LOSS

Reduced buoyancy due to permeation loss is greater when the device has been inflated with compressed carbon dioxide (CO₂) than with exhaled air. Replenishment by means of the oral inflate/deflate system will be necessary to maintain maximum buoyancy.

IMPORTANT: Kokatat, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility for death, injury, property damage or loss of any kind resulting from the correct or incorrect use of the SeaO₂ life vest and/or the techniques described in this pamphlet.

EACH OF THESE DEVICES IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE

For your PFD to function properly, follow these suggestions to insure that it fits, floats, and remains in good condition.

1. Try your wearable PFD on and adjust it until it fits comfortably in and out of the water.
2. Mark your PFD with your name if you are the only wearer.
3. Do not alter your PFD. If it doesn't fit properly, get one that does. An altered device is no longer Coast Guard approved.
4. Your PFD is not intended for use as a fender or kneeling pad.
5. If your PFD is wet, allow it to dry thoroughly before storing it. Store it in a well ventilated area.
6. Do not dry your PFD in front of a radiator or other source of direct heat.



Life vest on the body



Side view of fully inflated life vest.

APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

This is a Type V PFD which, while your boat is underway and you are above deck, is **APPROVED ONLY WHEN WORN**. Therefore, if your boat is made fast (secured) or you are under an overhead you need not be wearing the device to comply with the mandatory carriage requirements. However, to comply with the mandatory carriage requirements and if you are not under an overhead, you must either wear this device, or have sufficient number of other devices with unrestricted approval on board.

This PFD has these restrictions because **YOU MAY HAVE TO INFLATE IT TO FLOAT** and because it requires maintenance. Also, in the event of an accident or fall overboard, the chances of any PFD aiding in your survival are greatly reduced if it is not worn.

There is only one way to find out if you will float without inflation. That is to try this PFD in the water as explained on page 11 ("How to test your PFD"). If you have not tested this device in accordance with the suggestions in "How to test your PFD", the Coast Guard does not recommend its use.

MANDATORY CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

You are required by Federal Regulations (33 CFR 175) to have Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) which are in good and serviceable condition and of the correct size for each person in your recreational boat. If approved only when worn they must also be worn under the specified conditions, and all devices must be legibly marked with the Coast Guard approval number.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Make sure the listed chest size is correct for the wearer. The white UL label on the inside back of the PFD lists a chest size range, i.e. ADULT LARGE CHEST SIZE 44"-48" (112-122 cm). This label also contains other important information; please take the time to read it. In selecting the proper size, take into consideration any cold water gear you may anticipate wearing.

When fit properly, a life vest should stay in place even if tugged firmly from the shoulder straps. Practice makes perfect! Remember, life vests only function when worn on the body. They will provide no flotation to the paddler if strapped to a boat.



Step 1: Prior to putting on the life vest, loosen all adjustment straps.



Step 2: Put on life vest and close zipper.



Step 3: Pull life vest down at waist (to lowest position possible) and secure waist belt buckle.



Step 4: Tighten side adjustment straps starting from the waist belt, moving up.

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT HYPOTHERMIA PROTECTION

1. Do not attempt to swim unless it is to reach a nearby craft, fellow survivor, or a floating object on which you can lean or climb. Swimming increases the rate of body heat loss. In cold water, drownproofing methods that require putting your head in the water are not recommended. Keep your head out of the water. This will greatly lessen heat loss and increase your survival time.
2. In a hybrid that provides Type III performance, and some other types, it is important that you not use the standard HELP position, drawing the legs up to a seated position, because you will be turned face down. In a Type III keep your legs tight together and in line with the torso with feet pulled back. Keep your arms folded tight to your sides and your head back.
3. Keep a positive attitude about your survival and rescue. This will improve your chances of extending your survival time until rescue. Your will-to-live does make a difference!
4. If there is more than one person in the water, huddling is recommended while waiting to be rescued. This action tends to reduce the rate of heat loss and thus increase the survival time.
5. Always wear your PFD. Even if you become incapacitated due to hypothermia, the PFD will keep you afloat and greatly improve your chances of rescue.

WEAR YOUR PFD

Your PFD won't help you if you don't have it on. It is a well-known fact that most boating accidents occur on calm water during a clear sunny day. It is also true that in approximately 80 percent of all boating accident fatalities, the victim did not use a PFD. Don't wait until it's too late. Non-swimmers and children especially should wear their PFDs at all times when on or near the water. Hybrid Type V PFDs are not recommended for non-swimmers unless inflated enough to float the wearer.

THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT PFDs

Flotation material used in PFDs will lose a certain percentage of buoyancy with time. The actual loss depends on several factors including the type of material and use. This loss could be severe enough to cause the device to fail to perform properly. Users are advised to periodically test their PFDs in the water as explained in the chapter titled HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD on page 11.

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia, a substantially lowered body temperature due to the loss of body heat to the water, is a major cause of deaths in boating accidents. Often the cause of death is listed as drowning, but, most often the primary cause is hypothermia and the secondary cause is drowning. After an individual has succumbed to hypothermia, he will lose consciousness and then drown. The following chart shows the effects of hypothermia:

<i>Water Temp (F)</i>	<i>Exhaustion or unconsciousness</i>	<i>Expected time of survival</i>
32.5	<i>Under 15 min</i>	<i>Under 15 to 45 min.</i>
32.5 to 40	<i>15 to 30 min</i>	<i>30 to 90 min.</i>
40 to 50	<i>30 to 60 min</i>	<i>1 to 3 h</i>
50 to 60	<i>1 to 2 h</i>	<i>1 to 6h</i>
60 to 70	<i>2 to 7 h</i>	<i>2 to 40 h</i>
70 to 80	<i>3 to 12 h</i>	<i>3 h to indefinite</i>
Over 80	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>

PFDs can increase survival time because they allow you to float without using energy treading water and because of the insulation they provide. Naturally, the warmer the water, the less insulation you will require. When operating in cold waters (below 60°F) you should consider using a coat or jacket style PFD or a Type V Thermal Protective PFD as they cover more of the body than the vest or belt style PFDs.

PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO INFLATE THE LIFE VEST: ORAL INFLATE



Step 1: To inflate, access oral inflate tube (upper left chest pocket).



Step 2: Remove cap and exhale into oral inflate tube to desired buoyancy level.



Step 3: Replace cap.

DONNING AN INFLATED LIFE VEST

Donning a fully inflated life vest is difficult. This can be made easier by either deflating the life vest (page 6) and/or loosening all adjustment straps prior to donning life vest (page 4).

PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO INFLATE THE LIFE VEST: MANUAL INFLATE



Step 1: To manually inflate, grasp the yellow pull tab via open slot adjacent to large pocket.



Step 2. Jerk pull tab to inflate life vest.

PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO DEFLATE THE LIFE VEST



Step 1: To deflate, remove cap from oral inflate tube. Invert cap.



Step 2: Use tip of cap to depress oral inflate valve while pressing air out of vest.

NOTE: Oral inflate valve can also be depressed with a finger tip.

We recommend that you practice these procedures to familiarize yourself with your life vest.

WHY DO YOU NEED A PFD?

A PFD provides buoyancy to help keep your head above water and to help you stay face up in the water. The average weight of an adult is only about 5 to 10 pounds in the water. The buoyancy provided by most PFDs will support that weight in water. However, the hybrid Type V PFD may be an exception. The uninflated buoyancy provided by this PFD may float as few as 70 percent of the boating public. This is because the inherent buoyancy has been reduced to a minimum of 7-1/2 lbs. to make it more comfortable to wear. So, you may not be floated adequately without inflating the device. Once the device is inflated you will have a minimum of 22 pounds of buoyancy, which is more than enough buoyancy to float everyone. Your body weight alone does not determine how much you will weigh in water. Since there is no simple method of determining your weight in water, you should try the device in the water.

HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD?

1. Put the (deflated) device on and get in water just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
2. Tilt your head back and see if the PFD will float you (without inflation) on your back or just slightly back of vertical.
3. Your mouth should be above water. If it is, note the effect of inhaling and exhaling on your position in the water. Then inflate the device and note its performance in the inflated condition.
4. If your mouth is not above the water while floating in the deflated device, orally inflate the device until it will float you with your mouth out of the water. Note the level of inflation that is required (it is recommended that you wear the device with this level of inflation). Then follow the procedure specified in item (3) above.

INFLATABLE LIFE VEST CHECK LIST

Make sure the following statements are true about you and your companion(s) life vests:

- It is appropriate for the activity.
- It is the right size (for each person) and it fits snugly.
- The metal and plastic hardware is not broken, deformed or weakened.
- There are no visible rips, tears, open seams, leaks, punctures, mold or rust.
- The straps and webbings are not ripped, torn or separated from any attachment points.
- The oral inflate tube is intact, not blocked, detached or broken.
- The bladder is not punctured or ripped.
- The CO₂ cylinder is operational (see page 7, steps 1 and 2).
- The manual inflation lanyard is accesible, not broken or missing (see page 6, steps 1 and 2).
- The inflator status indicator is not broken or missing (see page 8, step 3).
- The inflation system is armed with a new CO₂ cylinder (see page 8, step 5).
- The bouyant material has not become compressed, hardened, waterlogged or oil-soaked.
- Check buoyancy and operation at least annually.
- You checked all the inflatable life vests in the same manner prior to your trip.

AUTHORIZED SEA₂ LIFE VEST SERVICE CENTER:

Kokatat, Inc.

5350 Ericson Way • Arcata • CA 95521

800.225.9749 (US only)

707.822.7621

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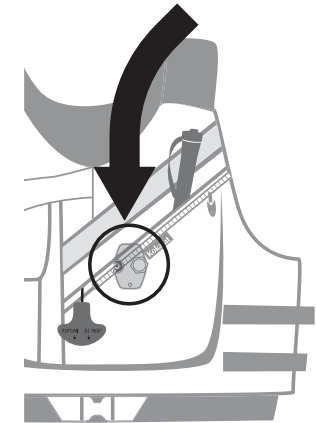
kokatat@kokatat.com

MANUAL INFLATOR RE-ARMING INSTRUCTIONS



BEFORE EACH EXCURSION

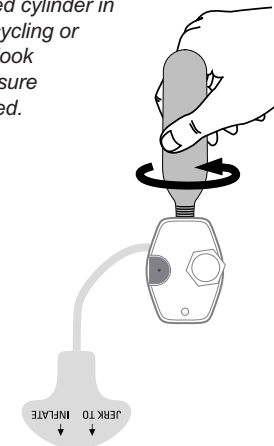
Make sure green indicator pin is locked in place signifying a filled CO₂ cylinder (indicating manual inflator is operational).



1. Access manual inflator via open slot behind large pocket and locate manual inflator.

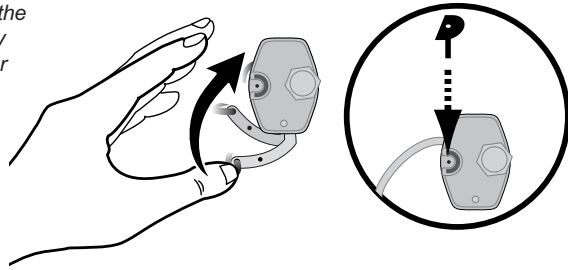
2. If manual inflator does not contain CO₂ cylinder, skip to step 3. If used CO₂ cylinder is attached, remove by rotating the cylinder counter-clockwise (remember: righty-tighty, lefty-loosey) and place used cylinder in steel recycling. Prior to recycling or discarding spent cylinder, look into threaded end making sure cylinder has been punctured. If cylinder has not been punctured, it is still filled with compressed CO₂.

Do not recycle or discard a filled cylinder!

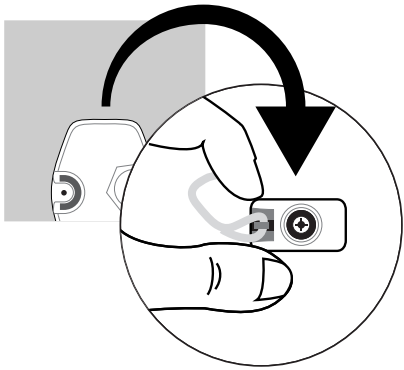


Empty CO₂ cylinders purchased from Kokatat are recyclable.

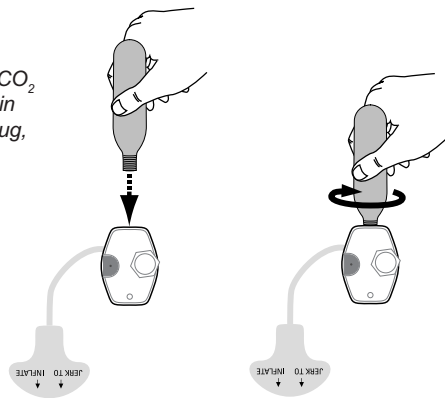
3. Rotate manual inflator lever to its closed position within the inflator body and carefully insert new green indicator pin in hole located on face of inflator.



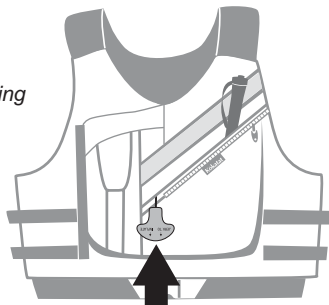
4. Look into threaded cylinder receiver and view the 3/8" gasket. If damaged or missing, contact Kokatat for replacement (item number 849AM, 3/8" receiver gasket).



5. Carefully thread new 16 gram filled CO₂ cylinder into cylinder receiver, rotating in clockwise direction. Make sure fit is snug, but **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN!**



6. Gently return re-armed manual inflator into its original position inside front bladder cover, making sure yellow pull tab labeled "jerk to inflate" is hanging out of small opening adjacent to main pocket.



IS YOUR PFD SAFE?

To check that your PFD will work when needed, inspect it between outings to see that it is free of rips, tears, or holes; that all seams and joints are securely sewn; and that the fabric, straps, and hardware are still strong. Also, buoyant inserts of all types must not show signs of waterlogging, shrinkage, mildew odor, oil absorption, or increased hardness or stiffness; and in the case of kapok, the plastic insert covering should not be torn or punctured. This can be detected by applying gentle pressure to the insert to see if air escapes. If any of these signs are apparent, your PFD should be replaced. Inspect the inflatable portion of the hybrid in accordance with the care and maintenance instructions.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

- Treat your SeaO₂ as you would any piece of rescue equipment upon which your life may depend.
- Do not alter your life vest to make it fit. Buy another one that does fit!
- Rinse thoroughly after use if worn in a swimming pool or salt water.
- It is suggested that you line dry and store your PFD in a shady area away from the sun's harmful UV rays, high heat, petroleum based or caustic fluids, such as gasoline, oil or solvents, exhaust fumes from vehicles, furnaces or heaters..
- Do not dry clean.
- Routinely inspect both the main body and the inflating hardware portions of the vest for any tears or abrasions that may affect performance and your safety.
- To check for leaks, remove the CO₂ cylinder, orally inflate the device until firm and leave overnight. The life vest should still be firm in the morning. This leakage test should be performed on a regular basis, especially if kept in storage for extended periods of time. After this test deflate, and re-arm the inflator.
- Do not put heavy objects in the pocket or on the life vest.
- Do not leave the life vest in your boat or vehicle.
- If 3/8" threaded cylinder receiver gasket is damaged or missing, contact Kokatat for a replacement (item number 849AM , 3/8" receiver gasket).