

PFD INSPECTION AND SERVICE

PILOT SAFETY

Personal
Protection
Equipment

Bowditch Navigation inspects and services your personal floatation device (PFD). Our standard inspection service follows the manufacturer's guidelines for testing, stowing, and arming your PFD. This includes a 24-hour inflation test to ensure the bladder maintains air pressure and replacing consumables such as firing caps, bobbins, or batteries if they expire less than 9 months from the date of service. In addition, you receive an inspection report documenting the initial PFD condition, parts replaced, and post-inspection condition as evidence of compliance with your organization's safety recommendations.

Need a new PFD? We can provide Spinlock and Mustang PFDs.

WHY SERVICE

- Defective and faulty life jackets lead to drowning
- PFDs have a limited shelf life
- Corrosion may cause failures
- New PFDs may lack lights or a man overboard (MOB) AIS transmitter

In one study, as many as 20% of all pilot PFDs would fail to prevent loss of life when not properly serviced.

WHEN TO SERVICE

- Annually for preventative maintenance
- Anytime your PFD deploys
- Purchasing a new PFD
- Adding a man overboard (MOB) AIS transmitter

Service is available for Spinlock, Mustang, Float Tech, and Eyson PFDs. Are you using a PFD from another manufacturer? Ask us!



Revised 10/31/2022. Photo Credit: United States Coast Guard

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SERVICE DESCRIPTION

- Complete inspection and rearming
- Add optional components: MOB sensor, SOLAS light, and bladder lights
- Custom printing of pilot number to fabric
- Detailed written report of service performed

SAMPLE CHECK LIST

- Outer fabrics - check for cuts or tears, signs of abrasion, or potential heat and chemical damage
- Bladder - inflation using the oral inflation tube and monitoring for 24 hours
- SOLAS light - ensure the light works, terminals have no sign of corrosion, and batteries are not expired
- Bladder lights - ensure the light works, terminals have no sign of corrosion, and housing is undamaged
- Sprayhood - ensure it is properly attached and undamaged (if equipped)
- Bobbin check - ensure the bobbin is not expired and appears uncompromised (if equipped)
- Firing cap - ensure all indicators are green, there are no signs of corrosion, and it is not expired
- MOB sensor - validate the expiration date, activate the MOB to ensure it transmits an AIS signal and that the strobe flashes, and then stow/rearm (if equipped)
- Cylinder - check for corrosion and ensure it is screwed tight
- Mark - create a custom tag identifying the date inspected

FAST DOMESTIC SERVICE

- Service provided in the United States
- Five-day turnaround time

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Bowditch Navigation is a leader in providing reliable, high-performance marine navigation aid systems, historically and today. We are focused on solutions for ship pilots. In 2001, Raven acquired Starlink, Inc., a company that pioneered many GPS technologies, including developing the industry's first MSK Beacon/DGPS receiver. Along with Raytheon Service Company and Capt. Joseph Bradley of The Pilot's Association for the Bay and River Delaware, Starlink developed the first GPS-based portable pilot unit in 1991. In 2017, Bowditch Navigation acquired the assets of the Raven Marine Navigation business. Today, Bowditch Navigation continues to foster Starlink's rich tradition of developing innovative GPS solutions for marine applications worldwide.



Revised 10/31/2022. Photo Credit: Lou Vest