



BY NORTHERN DIVER

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**INFLATABLE PRODUCTS MANUAL**

# NORTHERN DIVER INFLATABLE PRODUCTS MANUAL

Thank you for purchasing this Northern Diver Inflatable. To help ensure your future safety, do not use this product before reading this manual. It is important to fully understand its proper handling for safe usage.

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## **WARNINGS:**

Ensure equipment is used only by trained personnel. Do not drag the inflatable. Avoid contact with sharp or abrasive objects as they may puncture the fabric causing a loss of buoyancy. Walking an inflatable is only suitable for calm/slow moving water. Any non-approved modification will invalidate the warranty and may result in personal injury.

## **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Inflating.**

1. Remove the inflatable from the valise provided. It isn't necessary to unroll the inflatable for inflation.
2. The inflation valve has two positions. When the valve is closed, the diaphragm pin will be in the raised position. To open the valve, press and twist the diaphragm pin clockwise. When closing the valve, twist the diaphragm pin anticlockwise until it releases into the raised position.
3. Please ensure the inflation valves are in the closed position before inflating.
4. Insert the inflation hose into the inlet valve on the main section and twist clockwise to lock it into place. You can then begin to inflate. When using a BA cylinder to do so, this will take less than 60 seconds. Take care not fill to maximum capacity. When the first section is inflated, remove the hose by twisting anticlockwise.
5. The inflation process can then be repeated on each part of the inflatable. To save time, you can use multiple hoses to inflate two sections simultaneously (additional hoses are available to purchase). Please take care not to fill to maximum capacity.
6. When inflation is complete fit the valve caps by inserting them and twisting clockwise.

### **Deployment & Use.**

The following points are operational recommendations. Almost every operational scenario will have different hazards and risks, which can only be properly assessed at, and during, an operational rescue/recovery.

## **WARNING**

During use on water, mud and suspect surfaces, personnel should wear a "Lifejacket" or similar buoyancy aid, and / or be linked to the inflatable via a safety line. Failure to do this may result in personal injury or death.

## **Securing lines**

When using an inflatable in fast flowing water, use securing lines attached to the front towing 'D' ring and the towing 'D' rings on the sides to manoeuvre and secure the inflatable to convenient tie points on the bank / shore.

## **Towing**

The inflatable may be towed behind a parent craft at a maximum speed of 5 mph. The tow line must be secured to the front towing 'D' ring. If the inflatable is to be towed in rough water or for an extended time the tow line must be attached to a bridle secured between the towing 'D' rings on either side of the inflatable.

## **Manoeuvring**

The inflatable can be manoeuvred by one person using paddles (if supplied). It can also be manoeuvred in shallow water by persons walking alongside holding the carrying handles.

**NOTE:** Walking an inflatable is only suitable for calm/slow moving water.

## **Stability**

Wherever possible evenly distribute the weight of persons on the inflatable to avoid instability that may lead to capsize.

## **Righting Strap**

A loop strap is fitted on the underside of the inflatable to aid righting of the inflatable in the event of capsize.

**WARNING:** Unless otherwise specified most inflatables are not designed for any type of motorised propulsion. The fitting of any type of motor, or any other modification to the inflatable is not advised. Any non-approved modification will invalidate the warranty and may result in personal injury.

## **Deflating.**

1. Remove the inflation valve caps.
2. Open all valves by pressing and twisting the diaphragm pin clockwise.
3. Turn the inflatable upside down, and ensure that the floor is facing upwards. Begin to fold, starting at the opposite end to the inflation valves. While folding you will release any excess air from all sections of the inflatable.
4. Once folded/rolled, we recommend that the inflation valves are closed and the valve caps are in place. This will prevent dust/debris entering into the valves.
5. For an additional cost Northern Diver can supply a mains powered Speedy Air Pump, which can rapidly inflate or deflate any inflatable.

## PACKING / CLEANING

After every use, especially on mud flats, the inflatable should be hosed down in its inflated state, to remove as much debris as possible. Lay the inflatable on a clean, debris free area and allow to become as dry as possible before packing. Rinse all valves with clean water to remove any debris like sharp stones, dirt or sand and leave to dry.

If cleaning immediately after use is not possible, stow in the valise temporarily after checking for stones.

On return to base the inflatable should be unpacked, inflated and left to dry. When the inflatable is completely dry it should be checked for wear or damage. If none is found it should be repacked in the valise. If any damage is found it should be repaired immediately. Where possible the packed inflatable should be stored on the floor of a locker/appliance, ensuring no damage can be caused by it's proximity to other equipment. We advise you clean the inflatable within twenty-four hours.

**Note:** Household detergent mixed with warm water can be used with a scrubbing brush for any difficult patches of mud or oily deposits.

## MAINTENANCE / SERVICING

It should be noted that, due to the type of fabrics used in its construction, when the inflatable is wet, there may sometimes be visual evidence of miniscule white bubbles which form a line of froth at the seams and joints of the unit. This is recognised within the industry as 'lateral leakage', and is simply air that is trapped in the layer of nylon between the rubber coatings, forcing its way to the nearest available edge of the fabric. This type of leakage will not affect the performance of any inflatable product over the course of an operational procedure, and can be safely ignored. However, if there is evidence of large, transparent bubbles, this is clearly evidence of a leak that must be repaired at the earliest convenience.

### **Every six months**

A visual inspection is recommended. This can be carried out in-house by your maintenance department/workshop (Northern Diver will provide necessary training at no additional cost).

Inflate as per a normal deployment. Leaks can be detected by dousing the with soapy water. If a leak is present, bubbles will appear constantly on the affected area. If a leak is located around a seam or valve, Northern Diver will carry out any necessary repairs under warranty. Additional leaks can be repaired by Northern Diver and self adhesive repair patches can be purchased online. Each pack contains 3 x 50mm discs and 3 x 100mm disc patches. This will enable you to repair any leaks/punctures in-house. If the inflation or over-pressure valves are accidentally damaged, Northern Diver can repair or replace.

### **Every 12 months**

An annual service is required. There will be no additional charge for this service. Northern Diver will collect the inflatables and give each one its 12 month annual service. This includes the following: inflation, leak test, valve inspection and deflation. The inflation kit will be serviced at the same time. Northern Diver will collect and return the serviced inflatables within 3-5 days.

**Inflatable Details**

Please note your inflatable details for future reference.

Serial number
Date of purchase
Colour(s)

**Servicing Details**

Service date	Service station	Comments



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