



**Wilhelmsen Ships Service AS**

Office: Strandveien 20 Telephone: +47 67 58 45 50  
NO-1366 Lysaker Telefax: +47 67 58 40 80  
Mail: P O Box 33 Internet: [www.wilhelmsen.com/shipservice](http://www.wilhelmsen.com/shipservice)  
NO-1324 Lysaker Enterprise no: NO 917 019 215 MVA  
Norway

Date 11 August 2008

Dear Customers

## Safety Threat – Unitor Emergency Escape Breathing Device Copy in Circulation

Wilhelmsen Ships Service technicians have discovered a copy of a Unitor Emergency Escape Breathing Device (EEBD) that does not comply with IMO safety standards. In fact, the product cannot be used as an escape device. The hood will not fit over a person's head, and the automatic air-release valve does not function when the bag is opened. Any ships' personnel caught in a dangerous smoke-filled environment would be at risk not being able to escape in time to avoid asphyxiation.

The product looks very similar to an original Unitor EEBD, but despite carrying the Unitor name it can be easily identified as a copy from the outside without opening the bag. The original Unitor version comes in a shiny PVC bag, whereas the fake bag is made from a dull plastic canvas-like material. Close examination of the zipper will also help to identify the counterfeit version. The zipper slider on the original Unitor model closes from right to left (when seen from the front.) The copy version zipper slider closes from left to right and due to its design it will not activate the automatic release pin, which is not according to EN1146 standard.

We strongly recommend that all EEBDs are given a visible inspection by ships' personnel. If the EEBD appears to be an authentic Unitor product, the safety officer should NOT attempt to open the breathing device, as this will activate the automatic air-release valve. If it turns out to not be an original product, the EEBD should be replaced with a genuine "wheelmarked" product. If you are in doubt, please contact Wilhelmsen Ships Service for further advice and assistance.

External check	Original	Copy
Bag	Shiny PVC material	Dull canvas-like material
Bag	Zipper has 2 cm opening on the teeth	Zipper has no opening
Zipper direction	Zipper closes from right to left (front view)	Zipper closes from left to right. Air-release cannot be activated automatically

(See photograph on following page)

We are very concerned about this attempt to copy a safety device, and we are doing everything possible to alert the shipping industry so that these products can be withdrawn from service.

Yours sincerely

David Tandy  
President, Wilhelmsen Ships Service

# Unitor EEBD copies in circulation



**Upper:**  
Original Unitor EEBD with  
shiny PVC bag

**Lower:**  
Copied equipment, with  
dull canvas-like material



**Original Unitor EEBD:**  
Zipper has 2 cm opening on the teeth  
Zipper closes from right to left

**Copied equipment:**  
Zipper has no opening  
Zipper closes from left to right. Air-release  
cannot be activated automatically.