

Caring for the buoyancy tubes

Do not allow oil or petrol to rest on the fabric. In the event of a fuel spill, wash off with detergent and water.

The life of the outer covers will be extended if protected from the sun when not in use.

PVC restorers (such as "3M Marine Vinyl Cleaner and Restorer") can be used, although they do make the surface slippery.

Do not use chemical solvents, bleaches, acids or strong alkaline for cleaning. Stains or dirty spots can be rubbed gently with fine liquid abrasives (such as "Jiff"), but must be thoroughly washed off with clean water. After cleaning, the area may have a matt appearance. The sheen can usually be restored with a PVC restorer.

Visual inspections should be performed regularly. Small cuts or tears in the fabric should be patched. In extreme situations these can allow water between the inner and the outer which can cause the cut to enlarge to a dangerous extent, possibly resulting in major damage to the outer cover.

Check the condition of the bolt-rope where it exits the track forward and aft. Repairs should be carried out if the coating is damaged and the base fabric is showing through. If the fabric is torn at that point then a more substantial repair may be required. NB – under-inflation is a common cause of damage to the bolt-rope where it exits the track.

Always operate the craft with the buoyancy tubes inflated to the correct pressure.