

To Dräger customers who use:
PSS Series SCBA/CABE products
Medium Pressure Buddy Breather Accessories

15 November 2024

PSS Series SCBA/CABE Products – Buddy Breather Actuator Coupling (AC)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Within the framework of Dräger's continuous product surveillance activities, and in view of achieving our high standards of quality and the high standards that are expected of us, we are herewith disclosing the following information.

During our ongoing quality monitoring and quality assurance processes, Draeger Safety UK Ltd have identified a very small number of Medium Pressure "Buddy Breather" Accessories where the outlet (female) connection was not correctly fitted with the Actuator Coupling (AC).

The 3 versions potentially affected are:

- Buddy Breather - second medium-pressure connector. EN 137:2006
- Emergency Breathing Support System (EBSS). NFPA 1981: 2013
- Universal Emergency Breathing Support System (UEBSS). NFPA 1981: 2018

The Medium Pressure "Buddy Breather" has an Actuator Coupling (AC) that overrides the one-way valve if two "Buddy Breathers" are accidentally connected in reverse (i.e. the donor using the male connector). This ensures that if a second "Buddy Breather" is accidentally reverse connected during a rescue, air is still supplied to the second person. Without the Actuator Coupling (AC) air will not be supplied in an emergency rescue situation when accidentally connected in reverse.

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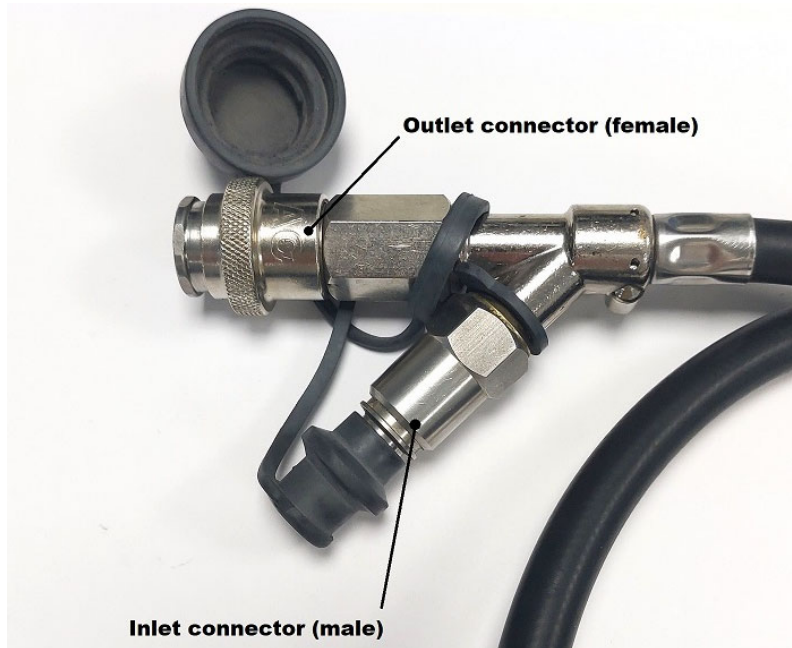


Fig 1. Buddy Breather connector assembly

When a Buddy Breather to Buddy Breather connection is made, as defined in the information for use (IFU), the donor should use the outlet connector (female) for the supply of air to a second person for rescue purposes. *See Fig 1. Buddy Breather connector assembly.* However, air will still be supplied correctly, regardless of which variant of outlet connector is used, that is whether the Actuator connector (AC), Low Force (LF) connector or Standard Force (SF) connector, is fitted.

Draeger Safety UK Ltd is conducting a Field Quality Improvement Action (FQIA) to ensure the safety of our customers is maintained in those rare occasions where a Buddy Breather to Buddy Breather connection is made incorrectly, and to maintain the relevant approvals and certifications.

Where the outlet connector of the Buddy Breather is used for the supply of air to a second person when connecting to a Lung Demand Valve (LDV) or rescue hood, air will be supplied correctly regardless of which variant of outlet connector is fitted.

The use of a SAR air supply will not be affected as the SAR outlet connector must be connected to the inlet connector of the Buddy Breather assembly.

Draeger Safety UK Ltd requires that all Buddy Breathers supplied between September 2019 and October 2022 are visually inspected.



Fig 2 Correct Actuator (AC) outlet connector.

If the Buddy Breather outlet connector (female) is engraved with AC on the collar, the Buddy Breather is correct therefore no further actions are required. *See Fig 2. Correct Actuator (AC) outlet connector.*



Fig 3. Incorrect Low Force (LF) outlet connector

If the Buddy Breather outlet connector (female) is engraved with LF or SF on the collar, *See Fig 3. Incorrect Low Force (LF) outlet connector*, **Draeger Safety UK Ltd recommend that the affected SCBA/CABE is not used for buddy breathing rescue until the Buddy Breather connector assembly is replaced.**

In such instances, please contact your local Dräger service entity to organize a replacement.

Draeger Safety UK Ltd would like to apologize for any inconvenience this measure may cause, however, we believe it is necessary to maintain the optimum functionality of our PSS Series CABE Buddy Breathers.

With best regards,

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