

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you would like to contact Hamble Marine Surveys our contact details can be found on the final page of this newsletter or on our website. Wishing all our customers a Happy Christmas & New Year and prosperous 2016.

Are my Seacocks Safe?

In recent years much has been written and discussed about seacock valves. As a surveyor an important aspect of a Pre-Purchase or Condition Survey is to check seacocks for corrosion and general condition.

It is known that roughly three broad types of material are in use for marine seacock valves. These include Brass, Bronze and Plastic/composite. The problem over the years is with Brass valves. Brass itself comes in various forms. The problematic non-corrosion resistant Brass is where the real issue exists.

Brass alloy is part Zinc and like your anodes being made from Zinc, this metal will corrode in a marine environment. Brass is cheaper than Bronze and corrosion resistant Brass is more expensive than standard Brass. Once again it comes down to money.

Production yachts and motorboats are built to a price. Amongst the many thousands of components, seacock valves are just another area of the vessel that are scrutinized and alternatives sought if cheaper.

The problems began for seacocks when the Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) came into force in 1998. ISO 9093-1 is the standard for seacock valves and within the definition of their corrosion resistance, it stipulates they must have a

minimum of 5 years service life. Sadly many boat owners are blissfully unaware of this fact and so if taken at face value one should consider replacing all the seacock valves and associated fittings such as elbows etc every 5 years!

From a surveyors perspective, the presence of corrosion called Dezincification where the Zinc component in the brass alloy is wasted away this leaves a Copper rich alloy which has two properties. It first is a bright pink colour and may be pitted, and second it is brittle.

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Do you need new safety equipment?

Hamble Marine Surveys are dealers for Ocean Safety equipment. We can provide a 10% discount on all orders over £500.

Contact us for a brochure or advice on what safety equipment you may require. See also the Ocean Safety website at www.oceansafety.com

Free Delivery and Training included for vessels in the Hampshire & Dorset Area.



Seacocks continued...

It can be difficult to determine the true condition of a seacock valve based on a visual inspection.

Externally it may appears sound, but internally the metal may be corroded and the valve weak.

When looking to replace your seacocks you need to purchase either Bronze or Corrosion Resistant Brass or DZR Brass as it is known. What you need to do is look for a CR marking on the body of the valve to indicate Corrosion Resistant.

Your seacocks need regular checks for condition and operation and the presence of obvious corrosion. When not in use seacocks should be kept shut. Hoses attached to valves should be secured using two stainless steel clips. Softwood bungs should be maintained onboard as part of your safety equipment.

New Website

During 2015 Hamble Marine Surveys has launched a new website optimized for mobile devices and browsing on the move

I hope you enjoy the new website with any comments or feedback much appreciated.

Thank you to Greenleaf Consulting for all their hard work in constructing the website and their invaluable advice.

Dates for your Diary

London Boat Show: 8-17th January 2016

Round the Island Race: 2nd July 2016

Cowes Week: 6-13th August 2016

Southampton Boat Show: 16-25th

September 2016

Some interesting images taken in 2015



Image taken of a bow mooring cleat on a Hallberg Rassy. Stainless steel bolts, aluminum cleat and seawater all great ingredients for corrosion. Note the impressive crack on the foot of the cleat.



This is crevice corrosion at its very worst! This was a propeller shaft from a 5 year old vessel. The shaft alloy was sub-standard. This was a charter vessel and the corrosion was only picked up during my survey when the vessel was sold.

Interesting Images continued..



Corrosion of the anchor windlass motor casing in the chain locker. A common finding during a survey on yachts and motorboats. Regular cleaning of the motor casing and ventilation of the locker is essential.



Impressive image of wear from a guardwire where it passes through an aluminium stanchion post. One area on a yacht to be constantly monitored.

Winter Checklist

- Drain the fresh water system including the water tanks and hot water tank.
- Check and service all seacocks and check hose connections including jubilee clips.
- ✓ Lubricate all deck hardware and service winches.
- ✓ If possible remove running rigging from the mast and deck, mousing all lines.
- ✓ Remove all sails and send for cleaning and servicing.
- ✓ Check the stern gear, grease and polish the propeller.
- ✓ Remove wasted anodes and wire brush hull anode studs.
- ✓ Heat & Dehumidify, remove or lift cushions and clean bilge.
- ✓ Lift sole boards and open lockers and doors.
- Remove canvas covers for cleaning and servicing.
- ✓ Engine winterization.
- ✓ Fill fuel tank to prevent condensation.
- Empty chain locker for cleaning, lower ground tackle to a pallet for inspection.
- ✓ Lightly abrade the hull antifouling ready for coating preseason.
- ✓ Empty and clean lockers, sort ropes.
- ✓ Send all safety equipment for servicing, check your dates on flares and extinguishers.

Thinking of Selling?

If you are considering selling your yacht or motorboat and wish to understand her current market value, Hamble Marine Surveys have access to trade databases for most vessels bought and sold worldwide. The Soldboats.com database gives an assessment of the actual price a vessel is sold for which allows a very accurate Valuation to be provided.

In addition to a Valuation a Pre-Sale Survey also provides a snap shot of the vessel's condition, which is presented in a pdf and bound report that can be used as a valuable sales tool. Pre-Sale Surveys are becoming more popular in an effort to make the sale and purchase process smoother and more transparent. A number of brokers are recommending that Pre-Sale Surveys be commissioned

Advice can be provided on the presentation of a vessel to be sold including advice of maintenance, contractors local to the vessel and upgrade work that can make the vessel more attractive for sale.

If you are considering selling your vessel do please contact us and we will be happy to arrange a Pre-Sale survey and Valuation or simply to provide some advice.





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