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Complete Support & Testing of Underwater Diving Equipment

“T” Nut Wiggle

KMDSI and Dive Lab have been getting some questions from time to time in regards to shells that have “T” inserts that may wiggle or have movement. This is especially true for shells that are over 5 years old. The “T” inserts are installed from inside the helmet after the layup is finished. Installing “T” nuts is labor intensive and sometimes a small void is created on the back side of the “T” allowing the “T” nut to wiggle slightly. “T” inserts that have slight side to side movement do not pose any structural problems. Side to side wiggle of T nuts is not uncommon and is perfectly acceptable. KMDSI recently started opening up the holes around the “T” nuts to allow more clearance during installation to the shell which helps prevent cosmetic stress cracking of the gel coat around the “T” nut face. A small amount of side to side wiggle (.030” or less) is acceptable for “T” nuts only! The main area of concern with movement of a “T” nut insert would be inward / outward movement. Movement that causes the “T” insert to protrude out past the shell up towards the port retainer greater than .030” could possibly interfere with the port retainer laying flat, possibly resulting in water leakage.

Standard threaded inserts, threaded into the shell should not have any movement because they are dry threaded in and do not have a solid back to lock them into the helmet.

Normally bad “T” inserts are replaced with a standard insert if replacement is necessary. All inserts, as well as “T” inserts can be replaced by authorized KMDSI repair facilities that are trained in insert repair.

If you have any questions call or E-mail Dive Lab.

Mike, Jr.
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