

# CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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**STATUTORY ALERT** Counterfeit emergency escape breathing devices (EEBDs)

**APPLICABILITY** All ship owners and operators

**INFORMATION** The U.S. Coast Guard has recently advised that counterfeit Unitor model UNISCAPE 15H EEBD emergency escape breathing devices (EEBDs) are being sold to ship operators and placed on board commercial vessels. It is strongly recommended that all vessel owners and operators with EEBDs on board carefully and thoroughly inspect them for authenticity. If any doubt exists as to their authenticity, they should immediately contact their emergency equipment vendors and/or the manufacturer for verification or to arrange replacement.

### Identification of counterfeit EEBDs

- An authentic Unitor UNISCAPE 15H is contained in a shiny PVC bag. When viewed from the front with the instruction icons upside down, the zipper opens from left to right. At the section of the zipper furthest to the left is a two centimetre gap covered by a clear tab that has a button closure.
- The counterfeit device is contained within a dull canvas-like material bag. When viewed from the front with the instruction icons upside down, the zipper opens from right to left. At the section of the zipper furthest to the left there is no opening, although a tab with a button closure, which appears to be made of the same material as the bag, is present. This unit will not automatically activate.

The number of fake devices sold and currently on board vessels is unknown and could be substantial. The counterfeits will not fit over an individual's head and the automatic air release valve will not open. A crisis situation requiring the use of an EEBD could potentially lead to a fatality, should a crew member inadvertently rely on a fake device.

### Further information

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