

## **BIRNS** *Aquamate*<sup>™</sup>

### **Maintenance guidelines for using BIRNS Aquamate<sup>™</sup> Connectors. Rev.02**

The following procedure details the installation and maintenance of the Birns Aquamate rubber molded series. This procedure should only be carried out by competent/ experienced technicians.

#### **Installation/ mating:**

- Ensure the connectors are clean of any foreign contaminants such as dirt, sand, etc.
- Ensure the connector is lubricated - the recommended lubricant is general purpose silicone lubricant spray such as Loctite 8021 in an aerosol can. Use the lubricant very sparingly. For O-rings a silicone grease such as Molykote 44 Medium is preferable to the spray.
- Align connector indexes & accomplish mating by pushing the connectors together straight, without twisting or bending.
- Do not over tighten the bulkhead nuts.
- Locking sleeves are finger/hand tightened.

#### **Maintenance:**

- Prior to un-mating ensure connectors are free of contaminants. Visually check for and note any damage or abnormalities
- When disconnecting do not pull on the cable but instead grasp the connector body and pull straight out. Avoid sharp bends at cable entry.
- After un-mating, visually check for and note any damage, cuts or abnormalities.
- Wash with fresh water and clean any grease, moisture or foreign particles from connector sealing surface area. Any contaminants in the female contact should be removed using low pressure (15-25 psi) of filtered compressed air. Dry the connectors by blowing off water drops with low pressure air.(Failure to remove contaminants could result in damage to the contact sealing surfaces).
- Avoid contact with noxious solvents.
- Care must be taken not to damage or bend pins in unplugged conditions.
- Electrically test the connector in accordance with the parameters of the system.
- If equipment is to be stored for some time, apply a light film of silicon lubricant spray and cover in a sealed poly bag ideally with dummy connectors if available.
- Follow installation/ mating procedure.

#### **General guidelines:**

- The connectors should not be exposed to long term heat or sunshine; the elastomers can become seriously degraded if exposed to direct sunlight or high ozone levels for extended periods of time.
- Avoid O-ring cuts and nicks.
- When using bulkhead connectors ensure that there are no angular loads as this is detrimental to the connector.

Ensure the above points are fulfilled to get the best out of your connectors. If in doubt, please contact Scorpion Oceanics Ltd or Zevulun/ Birns for advice.