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## Axiom i3





### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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### WARNINGS, CAUTIONS AND NOTES

Pay special attention to information provided in warnings, cautions and notes that are accompanied by one of these symbols:



**WARNINGS:** Indicate a procedure or situation that may result in serious injury or death if instructions are not followed correctly.



**CAUTIONS:** Indicate any situation or technique that will result in potential damage to the product, or render the product unsafe if instructions are not followed correctly.



**NOTES:** Are used to emphasize important points, tips and reminders.



### SAFETY INFORMATION

This manual provides essential instruction for the proper fitting, adjustment, inspection and care of your new BC. Because Aqua Lung BC's utilize patented technology, it is very important to take the time to read these instructions in order to understand and fully enjoy the features that are unique to your specific model. Improper use of this BC could result in serious injury or death.

Before using this buoyancy compensator (BC), you must receive instruction and certification in SCUBA diving and buoyancy control from a recognized training agency. Use of SCUBA equipment by uncertified or untrained persons is dangerous and can result in injury or death.

Read this owner's manual completely before attempting to use your BC, and become familiar with it first in a controlled environment such as a swimming pool, in order to weight yourself properly and to become comfortable with using its many features and adjustments.

Before every dive, perform a complete pre-dive inspection according to the procedure prescribed in this manual, to ensure that all components are functioning properly and no signs of damage or leaks are present. If you find that your BC is not functioning properly or is damaged, remove it from service until it can be repaired by an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.

Your BC is not a lift bag. **DO NOT** use it to bring heavy objects to the surface. Doing so may cause permanent damage to the BC, and could also result in serious injury or death due to embolism or decompression sickness.

In an emergency such as an out of air situation or uncontrolled descent, it is important to remove and jettison weight immediately. **DO NOT** depend solely on using your BC's power inflator to lift you to the surface.

In the event of an uncontrolled, rapid ascent, it is important to immediately begin venting air from the BC. Continue venting air to slow your ascent rate if neutral buoyancy cannot be reestablished.

**DO NOT** inhale from your oral inflator. The BC may contain harmful contaminants or gases, which could cause suffocation or injury.



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Factory prescribed service for this BC must be performed at least once annually by a factory trained technician who is employed by an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor. Annual service consists of a complete overhaul of the power inflator, and a general air leak inspection of the bladder and valve connections.

Disassembly, repair, or lubrication must not be attempted by persons who are not factory trained and authorized by Aqua Lung. Unauthorized service will render the warranty null and void.

This BC is designed for use with compressed air or Nitrox/EAN (enriched air nitrox) mixtures not exceeding 40% oxygen. Any use of gas mixtures with increased oxygen content or the addition of helium or other substances may cause corrosion, deterioration and/or premature aging of the BC leading to component failure of the metal and rubber parts. The component failures could lead to a loss of buoyancy control and/or pressure integrity of the BC resulting in injury or death. Non-standard breathing mixtures may also present a risk of fire or explosion. The use of Nitrox/EAN requires additional training. Failure to observe this warning may result in injury or death. Use only nitrogen/oxygen mixtures containing no more than 40% oxygen.

CE Conformity - This BC conforms to EN 1809: 1997.

It was controlled by the l'Institut National de Plongée Professionnelle, organisme notifié n°0078, entrée n°3 port de la pointe rouge 13008 Marseille -France.

TEMPERATURE LIMITATIONS: This BC should be used in temperatures no lower than -4°F (-20°C) and no higher than 150°F (65°C).



**WARNING:** This is NOT a life jacket: It does not guarantee a head up position of the wearer at the surface. It is not designed to provide face-up flotation in all situations; therefore it does not meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations for a life preserver or personal flotation device (PFD). If you become unconscious in the water without a buddy present to immediately give assistance, you may suffer serious injury or death from drowning.



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Your buoyancy compensator is primarily designed to help you maintain neutral buoyancy while in a comfortably balanced, face-down swimming position underwater. It is also designed to provide you with flotation so that you can rest on the surface, but it is not designed to function as a life preserver or personal flotation device (PFD). In order to meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations, a PFD must be designed so that it automatically rights you to a face-up position and holds your head out of the water on the surface. The design characteristics of a personal flotation device are different from those of a buoyancy compensator. The ability of any flotation device to float you in a face-up position can also be affected by other diving equipment you wear, including a cylinder, weight or exposure suit, and whether it can be inflated before you lose consciousness.

For this reason, it is important to always dive with and maintain close proximity to your buddy at all times. Do not depend on any flotation device to hold your face above the surface in the event that you are rendered unconscious in the water while diving.

**If you have any questions regarding your Buoyancy Compensator or the information found in this manual, please contact your regional Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor. Distributor information is available on the Aqua Lung website at: [www.aqualung.com](http://www.aqualung.com)**



**WARNING:** Although this manual provides some basic guidelines for certain buoyancy control techniques, it is not a substitute for training from a professional diving instructor. Failure to weight yourself properly may create a hazardous condition that could lead to serious injury or death. If you are unsure how to weight yourself in order to achieve optimum buoyancy underwater and on the surface, do not dive until you have obtained the necessary instruction from your diving instructor or an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.



### DEALER INSPECTION AND SERVICE



**WARNING:** DO NOT attempt to perform any disassembly or service of your BC. Service requiring disassembly must only be performed by a factory-trained Aqua Lung technician. To obtain service or repair, such as power inflator service or replacement of the bladder, see your local Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.

1. It cannot be assumed that the BC is in good working order on the basis that it has received little use since it was last serviced. Remember that prolonged or improper storage can still result in internal corrosion and/or deterioration of o-ring seals and valve springs, as well as bladder seam degradation.
2. It is imperative that you obtain prescribed dealer service for your BC at least once a year from an authorized dealer, including a general air leak inspection, visual inspection of the SureLock weight pouch handles (if equipped) and complete overhaul of the power inflator and OPR valve. Your BC may require this service more frequently, depending on the amount of use it receives and the environmental conditions it is used in.
3. If the BC is used for rental or training purposes in salt, chlorinated, or silted fresh water, it will require prescribed dealer service every three to six months. Use in chlorinated water will greatly accelerate the deterioration of most components, and require more frequent service.
4. **DO NOT** attempt to perform any disassembly or overhaul service of your BC. Doing so may cause the BC to dangerously malfunction, and will render the warranty null and void. All service must be performed by an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.



**NOTE:** It is important to obtain prescribed dealer service for your BC at least once annually, from an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor, your personal safety and the mechanical integrity of your BC depends on it.



### ANNUAL SERVICE AND INSPECTION RECORD

Purchase Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Store Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

BC Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	DEALER NAME	CITY, STATE	COUNTRY	TECH INITIALS



### WARRANTY INFORMATION

All warranty transactions must be accompanied by proof of original purchase from an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor. Be sure to save your sales receipt, and present it whenever returning your BC for warranty service.

### LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Warranty coverage on buoyancy compensators covers the product throughout its useful life, subject to the conditions listed below and utilizes a pro-rated replacement policy\*.

Aqua Lung warrants to the original purchaser for the useful life of the product, from the date of purchase, that the product will be free from defects in materials and workmanship, provided that it receives normal use, proper care and prescribed dealer service subject to the limitations listed below. The Limited Lifetime Warranty is extended only to the original purchaser for purchases made from an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor and is not transferable. This warranty is limited to repair or replacement only at the discretion of Aqua Lung.

### \* PRODUCT REPLACEMENT ON A PRORATED BASIS

Products under the Limited Lifetime Warranty that malfunction due to material or manufacturer defects that have also had a significant amount of use will be replaced on a prorated basis. Prorating will be determined by a percentage factor based on the condition of the product and how long the product was used prior to the warranty claim. This can be useful to evaluate Limited Lifetime Warranty claims since the warranty period is for the “useful life of the product” and not a set length of time. The following guidelines should be used in determining what prorated percentage will be used.



**NOTE:** *This can be a subjective evaluation. Fair and reasonable judgment should be used.*

Prorated Values of Products Sold at Retail	Aqua Lung Pays	Customer Pays
Like new and less than 2 years old	100%	0%
Slightly used and less than 5 years old	75%	25%
Very used and /or more than 5 years old	50%	50%
Worn out	0%	100%





### WARRANTY LIMITATIONS

Warranty coverage does not extend to damages caused by improper use, improper maintenance, neglect, unauthorized repairs, modifications, accidents, fire, casualty or normal wear and aging.

Cosmetic damage(s), such as scratches, nicks and fraying are not covered under warranty except when the product is new, out of the original packaging.

This warranty does not extend to equipment used for rental, commercial or military purposes.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have rights which vary from state to state and country to country.

AQUA LUNG DISCLAIMS AND EXCLUDES ANY LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SOME STATES IN THE U.S. AND CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES DO NOT ALLOW EXCLUSIONS OR LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THIS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.



**WARNING:** It is dangerous for untrained and uncertified persons to use the equipment covered by this warranty. Therefore, use of this equipment by an untrained person renders any and all warranties null and void. Use of SCUBA equipment by anyone who is not a trained and certified diver, or receiving training under the supervision of an instructor, could lead to serious injury or death.



### BASIC SETUP

Aqua Lung recommends that you bring your buoyancy compensator, together with your regulator, to your authorized dealer for the installation of the MP inflator hose and other accessories. The retailer can also answer any questions you may have pertaining to the information in this manual.



**NOTE:** The terms “hook”, “loop” and “hook & loop” are used throughout this manual. Hook & Loop is commonly known as Velcro®, which is a trademarked brand of hook & loop. Many of the BC’s components have hook & loop attachments, including the waistband, cylinder bands, weight pouch flaps and inflator hold down.

If it is not possible to return the BC with your regulator to your authorized dealer, you may install the MP quick disconnect inflator hose by carefully performing the steps in the following procedure. Please note that the procedure varies based on the presence or absence of the i3 Control Unit.



### ATTACHING THE MP HOSE TO THE FIRST STAGE

1. Remove the inflator hose from the power inflator body by gripping the grooved sleeve over the quick disconnect coupling with your thumb and forefinger. Slide the sleeve back.



2. Remove the port plug from an MP port on the regulator using an appropriately sized wrench.



**WARNING:** DO NOT connect the inflator hose to a high pressure (HP) port (greater than 200 psi / 14 bar). This may cause the hose to burst when pressurized, which can result in serious injury. If you are unsure which regulator port is medium pressure (MP) or high pressure (HP), consult your regulator owner's manual or your dealer before attaching the hose.

3. Check to ensure the o-ring is present and in good condition. Screw the threaded end of the hose into the port and tighten to 40 in-lbs (4.5 Nm) with a 9/16" wrench.





### ROUTING & ATTACHING THE MP INFLATOR HOSE (i3 INFLATOR)

1. After attaching the BC and regulator to a cylinder, make sure the bladder is completely deflated.

2. Route the MP hose down the back of the BC along the cylinder and through the hook and loop hold-down. If needed, adjust the hook and loop hold-down to the desired size.



3. Remove the dust cap on the quick disconnect plug on the i3 control unit.



**NOTE:** Keep the dust cap on while not in use.

4. Grab the hose grip between your thumb and forefinger, then slide the sleeve back.





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5. Place the fitting over the quick disconnect plug and firmly push inward while releasing the hose grip. Check to ensure the hose is securely attached.



6. To test the connection, slowly open the cylinder valve and pressurize the regulator. Lift up on the lever and listen for the flow of air into the BC bladder.



**NOTE:** BC's using the i3 system are equipped with longer than normal MP inflator hoses. It is very important to use the inflator hose provided with your BC (if the hose is too short it will not reach the i3 control unit).

### Hose lengths are as follows:

XXS/XS/SM - 27 inches (68.5 cm) (pn 44827)- Red

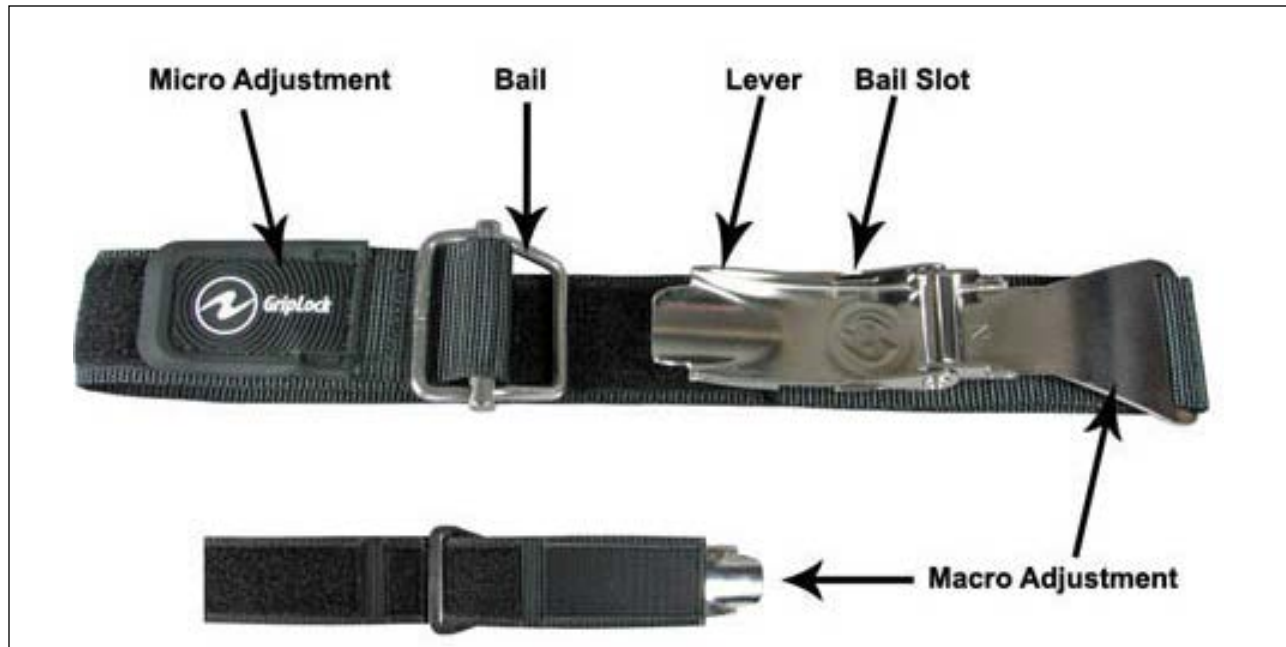
MD/ML/LG - 33 inches (84 cm) (pn 44833) - White

XL - (Dimension i3 and Axiom i3 only) 36 inches (91.5 cm) (pn 44836) - Blue

XXL - (Axiom i3 only) 40 inches (101.5 cm) (pn 44840) - Lt Gray



## GRIPLOCK™ CYLINDER BAND COMPONENTS



## THREADING THE GRIPLOCK™ CYLINDER BAND

If the GripLock cylinder band has been removed from the bail, re-thread using the following procedure:

Insert the open end of the cylinder band into the large opening of the bail, around the slide bar and out the small opening of the bail. Secure the hook and loop on the band to hold the bail in place.





### ADJUSTING THE GRIPLOCK™ CYLINDER BAND



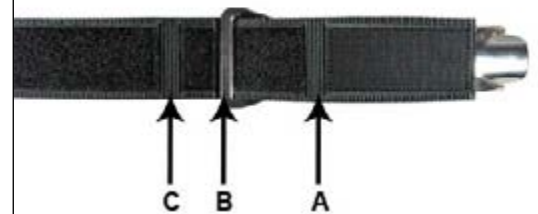
**WARNING:** The BC must be completely deflated of air before adjusting the GripLock cylinder band. Failure to do so may result in the cylinder slipping during the course of a dive.



**NOTE:** The GripLock cylinder band adjusts for all standard cylinder diameters and is ready for use with an aluminium 80 cf (7.25 inch / 184 mm) cylinder when the BC leaves the factory.

1. There are three macro settings for cylinder size.
  - A. Larger cylinder
  - B. Al 80 cf (7.25 in/184 mm)
  - C. Smaller cylinder
2. Adjust the macro adjustment for the proper cylinder size.
3. Secure the excess webbing under the trim pocket (if equipped) after cylinder size is selected.

#### Macro Presets







### SECURING THE GRIPLOCK™ CYLINDER BAND



**NOTE:** There is no need to wet the GripLock cylinder band prior to securing it to the cylinder. When properly adjusted, the cylinder band will retain its tension. If adjustment is necessary for a larger or smaller size cylinder (pre-set for use on an aluminum 80 cf cylinder 7.25 inch / 184 mm), follow the procedure in the section: **Adjusting the GripLock Cylinder Band.**



**WARNING:** Check that the macro adjustment is set for the appropriate size cylinder. Failure to do so may result in the cylinder slipping during the course of a dive.



**NOTE:** Pull the micro adjustment **only until it is snug** against the cylinder. If the lever is difficult to close, the micro adjustment is too tight. Loosen the micro adjustment and close lever to secure GripLock band to cylinder. If it is difficult to remove the GripLock band from the cylinder, this is an indicator that the micro adjustment was too tight when installed.



**NOTE:** Your BC comes equipped with a valve strap. This strap allows you to place the BC in the proper position for perfect tank placement. Place the valve strap over the cylinder valve and adjust as needed.

1. Make sure the cylinder valve air outlet is facing the back of the BC. Secure the valve strap (if equipped) around the base of the cylinder valve. It does not need to be cinched all the way, just enough to keep the cylinder vertical and the back of the BC straight, parallel with the cylinder.



**NOTE:** Over-tightening the valve strap can result in the BC being drawn in towards the cylinder which may be uncomfortable to wear.





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2. For optimum cylinder retention, center the GripLock buckle assembly on the curve of the cylinder. Connect the bail into the bail slot of the lever. Hold the lever and pull the webbing to tighten the micro adjustment. Secure the hook and loop webbing on the micro adjustment.



3. Push the lever forward until it stops in the **pre-locked position**.



**NOTE:** The **pre-locked position** ensures your fingers do not get caught in the lever.

4. Push the lever down into the **locked position**. Verify the lever is secured in the **locked position**. Once the cylinder band is set up, further adjustment is typically not needed.



5. Check the cylinder band is secure by pulling on the band while holding down the cylinder at the valve. If the cylinder band moves, it is too loose. Check the macro adjustment is set for the correct size cylinder. Repeat steps 1-4 to tighten and secure the cylinder band.



**WARNING:** Verify the tension of the cylinder band prior to every dive. Failure to do so may result in the cylinder slipping during the course of a dive.



### DONNING AND ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES

1. Remove the weight pouches from the BC, if applicable.
2. Disconnect the waist buckle and waistband.



**NOTE:** *If additional length is needed in the waistband, remove the webbing from the websplices.*



3. Ensure that the quick release buckles (if equipped) on both torso straps are securely fastened. While firmly holding the torso strap where it connects to the BC lobe, fully extend each torso strap to its maximum length by pushing straight up on the slide buckle.
4. While your dive buddy lifts and holds the BC/cylinder behind you, place your arms through the BC torso straps as if you were putting on a jacket.



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5. While your buddy continues to hold the cylinder, connect the waistband and waist buckle. Pull forward on the D-rings to tighten the waistband. The weight of the cylinder should rest on the lumbar region (lower part) of your back.



**NOTE:** *If the webbing has been removed from the websplices, pull the waistband D-rings to the side until snug.*

6. Connect the chest strap buckle. Pull on the free end of the strap to tighten. The chest strap should feel comfortable across the chest, it should not be overtightened so that it feels restrictive.
7. After your buddy has released the cylinder and the BC feels comfortably supported on your hips and shoulders, bend forward at the waist and adjust the torso straps to a comfortable length by pulling on the torso strap D-rings (if equipped).



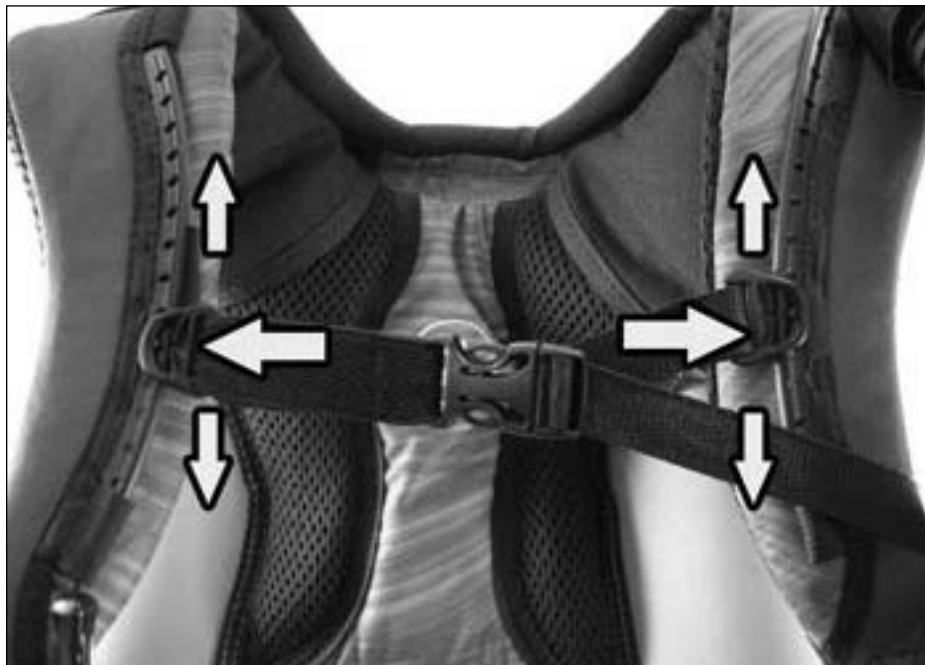
**NOTE:** *Adjusting the shoulder straps too tightly will transfer the cylinder weight from the hips to the shoulders, restricting your arm movement and decreasing comfort.*

8. If necessary, readjust the waistband and waist buckle so that they are comfortably snug, but not restricting.



### ADJUSTING THE RAIL SYSTEM

The chest strap fits across your sternum and keeps the two shoulders from slipping to the sides, ensuring a comfortable and secure fit. Before donning the BC, loosen and disconnect the chest strap. After donning the BC, connect the chest strap and tighten by pulling on the free end of the strap. The chest strap should feel comfortable across the chest; it should not be overtightened so that it feels restrictive. Once the shoulder straps are in position, adjust the shoulder strap length by pulling down on the torso straps until the BC fits comfortably. The chest strap is on an adjustable rail system. Adjust the chest strap up or down on the rail system by pushing in on the spring release, slide the chest strap to the desired position and release the spring to lock in place.





## WEIGHT INTEGRATION FEATURES

### SureLock II™ Integrated Weight Release System

Your BC features the SureLock II Integrated Weight System. The SureLock II weight system pouches are secured with a mechanical locking mechanism. The SureLock II weight system either supplements or replaces a conventional weight belt. This unique feature allows you to quickly jettison either one or both weight pouches in the event of an emergency, thereby maintaining better control over your rate of ascent. The weight pouches can be easily reloaded into the BC pockets while you are wearing the BC.



**NOTE:** *It is very important to read the following instructions, and become thoroughly familiar with the correct methods for installing and releasing weight before you dive with your BC.*

### Maximum Weight Capacity

The SureLock II weight system features two interchangeable weight pouches which can be filled with either block weights or “soft weight” (pouches containing lead shot), in increments of 5 pounds or less. For ease of operation, low-profile block weight is strongly recommended. Refer to the **BC Weight Capacity Chart** for your specific model of BC for maximum weight pouch capacity.



**WARNING:** For smaller BC's, the lift capacity may not exceed the weight pouch carry capacity. The negative buoyancy of the lead, plus the negative buoyancy of the cylinder (when full), should not exceed the BC's positive buoyancy. The inability to achieve positive buoyancy while at depth or on the surface may lead to a hazardous situation that could lead to serious injury or death. Refer to the model-specific label, usually found in the pocket of your BC, to find the designated lift capacity, and load weight pouches accordingly.



## WEIGHT INTEGRATION FEATURES

### Loading Weight into the SureLock II™ Weight Pouches



**NOTE:** Your BC may not be able to float by itself on the surface if your BC is loaded with weight at or near its maximum buoyancy. In water weight of cylinders and other equipment may contribute to negative buoyancy of your full set of SCUBA equipment.

### Axiom i3 BC Weight Capacity Chart

Axiom i3			
BC Size	Trim Weight	Releasable Weight	Weight Pocket Type
XS	10 lb/4.5 kg	20 lb/9 kg	10 lb (4.5 kg) X 2
SM	10 lb/4.5 kg	20 lb/9 kg	10 lb (4.5 kg) X 2
MD	10 lb/4.5 kg	20 lb/9 kg	10 lb (4.5 kg) X 2
ML	10 lb/4.5 kg	20 lb/9 kg	10 lb (4.5 kg) X 2
LG	10 lb/4.5 kg	30 lb/13.6 kg	15 lb (6.8 kg) X 2
XL	10 lb/4.5 kg	30 lb/13.6 kg	15 lb (6.8 kg) X 2
XXL	10 lb/4.5 kg	30 lb/13.6 kg	15 lb (6.8 kg) X 2



**WARNING:** The non-releasable weight pockets are intended strictly for containing non-releasable weight, used in addition to releasable weight. Do not fill either pocket with weight unless you are certain you can achieve positive buoyancy at depth by releasing your weight pouches or weight belt while your BC is completely deflated.



## WEIGHT INTEGRATION FEATURES

### Loading Weight into the SureLock II™ Weight Pouches

Aqua Lung recommends that each pouch is loaded with equal amounts of weight for optimum balance, preventing the tendency to roll to one side during the dive. Also, it is strongly recommended that each weight pouch is fully loaded with two separate weight blocks for the 10 lb pouch (load horizontally), three separate weight blocks for the 15 lb pouch (load vertically) or four separate weight blocks for the 16 lb pouch (load horizontally). For example, if you want to load a 10 lb pouch with 10 pounds, use two separate 5 pound blocks, if you want to load a 15 lb weight pouch with 15 pounds, use three separate 5 pound blocks, if you want to load a 16 lb pouch with 16 pounds, use four separate 4 pound blocks.

### Loading Weight into the 10 lb SureLock II™ Weight Pouches

Lift up each pouch's flap **(a)**, and lay it back over the handle **(b)**. While holding the pouch fully open, insert the weight (horizontally) and then close the flap. When each pouch has been loaded with weight, firmly run your hand over the flaps to securely fasten the hook & loop **(c)**.



### Loading Weight into the 15 lb SureLock II™ Weight Pouches

Lift up each pouch's flap **(a)**, and lay it back over the handle **(b)**. While holding the pouch fully open, insert the weight (vertically) and then close the flap. When each pouch has been loaded with weight, firmly run your hand over the flaps to securely fasten the hook & loop **(c)**.

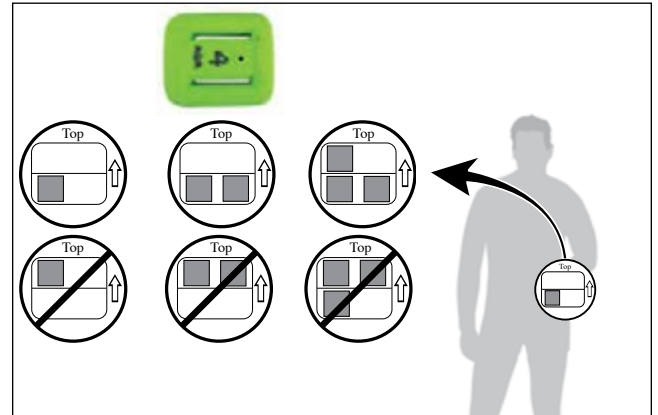






### Loading Weight into the 16 lb SureLock II™ Weight Pouches

The procedure for loading the 16 lb weight pouch is the same as the 10 lb weight pouch, except that the 16 lb weight pouch has an upper and lower weight compartment. Aqua Lung recommends that the pouches be completely filled with four separate weight blocks (two per compartment); however, if you need to partially fill the pouch, load the bottom compartment first. Use the diagram for proper weight placement. (This diagram is also sewn on the weight pouch flap).



### Loading Soft Weight into the SureLock II™ Weight Pouches

Aqua Lung recommends block weights be used in the SureLock II weight pouch for the best fit and ease of insertion. Soft weights may be used, but it is critical that the weights be loaded and secured correctly. The procedure for loading soft weights is the same as block weights, but it is important to ensure the soft weights are completely fitted into the weight pouch. This will ensure that the SureLock II locking mechanism can properly engage.



**NOTE:** Some weight pouches are specially pre-formed to fit the contour of your waist. Do not attempt to bend or straighten a pre-formed pouch.





### INSTALLING THE SURELOCK II™ WEIGHT POUCHES ON YOUR BC

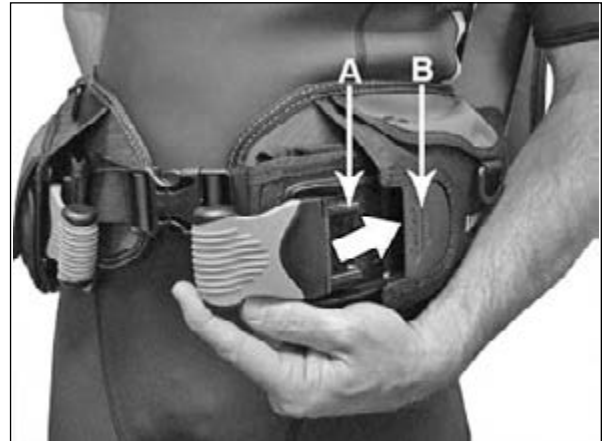


**CAUTION:** Aqua Lung strongly recommends that you do not attempt to don your BC when it is fully loaded with weight. You may otherwise risk injury due to muscle strain or a temporary loss of balance.

The SureLock II pouches are installed with the plastic panel facing outward (pouch flap facing toward the BC). To install either pouch, grasp the Lobe Retaining D-ring (if equipped) with your opposite hand and slide the closed end of the pouch into the opening of the holster. Insert the male portion of the SureLock II buckle (a) into the female receptacle (b) on the BC until you can hear/feel it click into place.



**WARNING:** Before every dive, it is important to make sure each weight pouch is secure, in order to prevent the pouches from falling out. Involuntary release of both weight pouches underwater can cause a sudden increase in buoyancy causing a rapid ascent, which could lead to serious injury or death due to arterial gas embolism, decompression sickness or drowning.



**WARNING:** Ensure the soft weight is inserted all the way into the SureLock II pouch. If any excess of the soft weight is protruding out of the weight pouch, it can prevent the SureLock II pouch from being properly secured. Involuntary release of both weight pouches underwater can cause a sudden increase in buoyancy causing a rapid ascent, which could lead to serious injury or death due to arterial gas embolism, decompression sickness, or drowning.





### RELEASING SURELOCK II™ WEIGHT POUCHES

Unlike a weight belt, which has only one release mechanism, each weight pouch is connected to the BC independently of the other and must be released separately. This provides you with the option of being able to jettison one pouch at a time, thereby maintaining better control of your ascent rate in an emergency.

In the event that you need to jettison weight, simply pull the release handle of each pouch towards the center of the waist buckle. When the pouch is completely disengaged from its holster, hold it out and away from your body before dropping it.



**WARNING:** Ensure that your weight pouches are not obstructed by any straps, lines, etc. **DO NOT** add weight to the BC's pockets, as this may interfere with the removal of the pouches in an emergency. Failure to ditch weight in an emergency may lead to serious injury or death due to drowning.



**WARNING:** To avoid injuring other divers, always look below you before dropping weight.



**NOTE:** In addition to becoming familiar with the weight system yourself, it is very important to explain its function to your dive buddy so that he/she is equally familiar with it.



### NON-RELEASABLE WEIGHT

To supplement the releasable weight, some BC's are designed to carry non-releasable weight in two fixed pocket locations (Zuma trim pockets are sold separately and may be added onto the cylinder band).

To install weight into the non-releasable weight pockets, simply disconnect the flap buckle, slide in the weight block, fold the flap over the pocket, and reconnect the buckle. Weight should be added to the non-release (trim) pockets after the BC has been secured to the cylinder.

The non-releasable weight pockets are designed to hold single rectangular weight blocks. To avoid accidental loss of weight, Aqua Lung strongly advises against using small bullet-shaped weights and shot weight.

Refer to the **BC Weight Capacity Chart** for maximum non-releasable (trim) weight capacity.

Because the weight is non-releasable, it must not be used as your primary source of ballast. After filling the fixed pockets with weight, it is extremely important to check your buoyancy in the water while wearing the BC attached to a fully charged cylinder and your exposure suit. While standing in chest deep water, deflate the BC completely and check to ensure that you can easily achieve positive buoyancy by jettisoning your releasable weight.



**WARNING:** The non-releasable weight pockets are intended strictly for containing non-releasable weight, used in addition to releasable weight. Do not fill either pocket with weight unless you are certain you can achieve positive buoyancy at depth by releasing your weight pouches or weight belt while your BC is completely deflated.



## INFLATION METHODS USING THE i3 SYSTEM

Your BC uses the i3 Inflation and deflation system. This may be different than the inflation / deflation systems that you are familiar with. The i3 system simplifies buoyancy control by locating inflation and deflation control in one location. It is very important to read the following instructions, and become thoroughly familiar with the correct methods for inflating and deflating your BC using the i3 system.



**NOTE:** The Airsource or Powerline inflator may also be added to any BC using the i3 inflation system. Simply remove the oral inflator and replace it with either the Airsource or Powerline.

### Power Inflation with the i3 Control Unit

For the power inflator to operate, the MP inflator hose must be connected (**See Routing and Attaching the MP Inflator Hose**). After the hose is attached to the i3 Control Unit, pressurize the first stage regulator by slowly opening the cylinder valve.

The working pressure of the power inflator is as follows: 103 PSI (7 BAR) minimum - 294 PSI (20 BAR) maximum.

To inflate your BC with air, lift up on the lever of the i3 Control Unit. Do not hold the lever up continuously underwater, as this could cause you to become excessively buoyant. Instead, inflate the BC in short bursts until you become neutrally buoyant.



**WARNING:** Avoid using excessive torque when lifting the lever of the i3 Control Unit.



**WARNING:** Do not rely on the i3 Control Unit as the only means to inflate your BC. It is important to practice the technique for orally inflating your BC so that you are prepared for any type of malfunction or out of air situation that could render the i3 Control Unit inoperable. You may otherwise be unable to achieve positive buoyancy in an emergency, which could lead to serious injury or death.



### Oral Inflation on BCs Equipped with the i3 System

1. The oral inflation tube is located under the flap/hook & loop on the left shoulder of the BC.



2. To orally inflate your BC, pull down on the mouthpiece to fully extend the oral inflation tube so that there are no kinks in the tube.



3. Push the mouthpiece against your lips and exhale into the mouthpiece. Immediately after exhaling, move the mouthpiece away from your lips to keep the air from escaping the BC.





### Storing Oral Inflator

When the oral inflator is not in use, fold the tube and store it under the hook & loop using the following method.

1. Using your index finger as a guide, begin folding the oral inflator hose, bending once under the hook & loop closure.



2. Continue to fold the hose together until it is positioned between the hook and loop closure.







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3. Hose should fit evenly and flat under the hook & loop closure.



4. Secure the oral inflator snugly with the hook & loop closure.



**WARNING:** Incorrect oral inflator storage could result in failure to deploy.



### DEFLATION METHODS USING THE i3 SYSTEM

Your BC uses the i3 deflation and inflation system. This may be different than the inflation / deflation systems that you are familiar with. The i3 system simplifies buoyancy control by locating deflation and inflation control in one location. In addition, when using the i3 control for deflation, it is not necessary to remember which valve to activate for optimum deflation. Deflation via the i3 control opens all valves simultaneously venting air regardless of your position in the water. On BC's equipped with the i3 system, air can also be vented from the BC manually.

It is very important to read the following instructions, and become thoroughly familiar with the correct methods for deflating and inflating your BC using the i3 system.

#### Deflation Via i3 Control Unit

To deflate your BC, simply press down on the lever of the i3 Control Unit. This will open both of the Flat E-Valves simultaneously to allow air to escape the BC regardless of your body position. Deflate the BC in short bursts until you become neutrally buoyant.



**WARNING:** Avoid using excessive torque when pressing the lever for the i3 control unit.





### Deflation Via Flat E-Valve (Right Shoulder)

BC's that feature the i3 are also equipped with Flat E-Valve Technology. To deflate the BC, manually pull on the knob and cord assembly located on the right front shoulder to quickly dump air.

In order to dump air as quickly as possible, always use the dump valve at the highest point in the water column.



**WARNING:** Most training agencies recommend that you descend in an upright feet-first position, in order to maintain a slower controlled descent. This is especially true if you experience difficulty equalizing your ears, or if you are descending in low visibility conditions.



### Over Pressure Relief (OPR) Via Flat E-Valve

The Flat E-Valves also function as over pressure relief valves.



**CAUTION:** The proper function of the over pressure relief valve is vital to preventing damage to the BC bladder. Unauthorized service or tampering may render these valves inoperable and could cause the bladder to leak or burst. This type of damage is not repairable and is not covered under warranty.



### SPECIAL FEATURES

#### Knife Grommets

Your BC has two grommet holes designed to accept many of the specialty BC knives available from Aqua Lung. For information on available knife models, consult an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor. To attach or remove the knife and sheath from the BC, refer to the instructions provided with the knife.



#### Octo Pocket™

Your BC features an Octo Pocket located on the inside of one or both of the BC lobes which allows you to easily place your octopus (alternate air source) in a highly visible, easy to access location. Fold the hose back on itself and insert downward into the pocket.





### Console Pocket

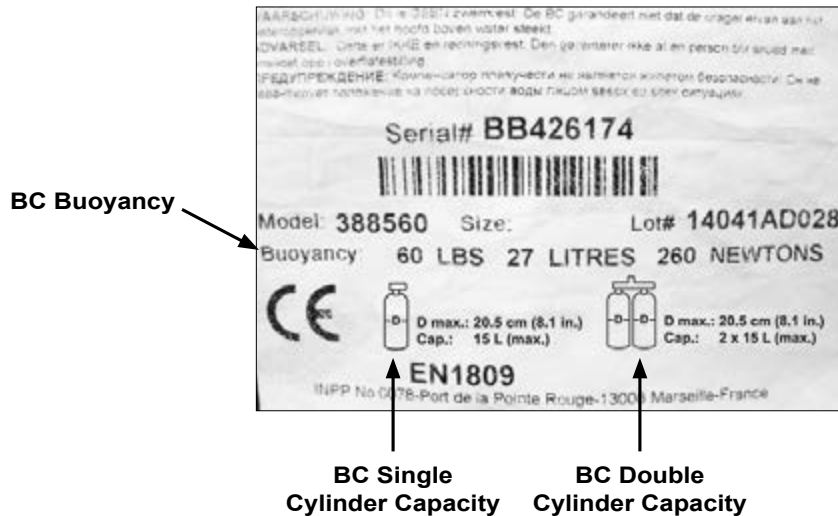
The scooped style octo pocket on either BC lobe can also be used as a console pocket. The divers console can be run behind the pocket and out the scooped opening on the top, front of the lobe.







### BC Buoyancy and Cylinder Capabilities

Each BC has a tag in one of the following locations: inside the BC pocket, on the inward side of the harness or inside the outer bag of the buoyancy cell. This tag contains specific information regarding the characteristics of your particular model BC, such as buoyancy and cylinder capabilities. It is important to review this information in order to know the proper cylinder sizes that may be used (single and double cylinders) and to ensure the amount of weight being used does not exceed the buoyancy of the BC.



**NOTE:** The BC tag above is an example only. Reference the specific tag located on your model BC.

Axiom i3	
BC Size	Cylinder Capacity
XS	 <p><b>D max.: 20.5 cm (8.1 in.)</b> <b>Cap.: 15 L (max.)</b></p>  <p><b>D max.: 17.7 cm (7.0 in.)</b> <b>Cap.: 2 x 10 L (max.)</b></p>
SM	
MD	
ML	
LG	
XL	
XXL	



### Double Cylinder Set-up

Before adapting your BC for use with double cylinders, it is important to compare the buoyancy of your particular BC size and model with the specifications of the cylinders, the amount of weight you will carry, and the type of exposure suit you will wear.

Your BC's backpack or harness may also have certain weight limitations depending on the size and model, as double cylinders vary in both size and weight. To ensure your safety, refer to the **BC Buoyancy and Cylinder Capabilities section of this manual** prior to attaching double cylinders to confirm the approved double cylinders for your particular BC.

Select BC's can accommodate an Aqua Lung Twin Tank Kit. Consult your local Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor for more information. Dealer or Distributor and product information can be found on the Aqua Lung website at [www.aqualung.com](http://www.aqualung.com)



**WARNING:** When fully charged and worn together as doubles, some cylinders may create enough negative buoyancy to counteract the amount of buoyancy your BC can provide. At depth, this can lead to a dangerous situation if your wetsuit becomes compressed and you can no longer achieve positive buoyancy by jettisoning weight. The excess weight of some twin cylinders may also lead to structural failure of the backpack or harness. Such an event while diving may separate you from your primary air source, and could lead to serious injury or death.



### PRE-DIVE INSPECTION

Before each use, the BC must be given a thorough visual inspection and functional test. NEVER dive with a BC that shows signs of damage to its bladder or valves until it has received a complete inspection and service from an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.

1. Connect the i3 Control Unit to a source of clean compressed air via the MP quick disconnect hose. Lift up and release the lever intermittently to ensure that the airflow is unobstructed, and that the airflow stops completely when the lever is released. Push down on the lever to make sure the BC is venting air.
2. Manually operate the Flat E-Valve by pulling on the attached knob and cord to release air from inside the BC, and then fully inflate the BC until the Flat E-Valve opens. Examine the operation of the Flat E-Valve by repeatedly inflating the BC to ensure that it opens to relieve excess pressure, yet closes immediately afterward to allow the bladder to remain taut and fully inflated.
3. Check the function of the oral inflator, to ensure rapid unobstructed exhaust from the oral inflator assembly. Fully inflate the BC once again, and disconnect the i3 inflator from the compressed air supply and listen closely for any leaks.



**WARNING:** If you can hear any leaks, or if the bladder begins to deflate within 5-10 minutes, DO NOT attempt to use the BC until it has received service from an Authorized Aqua Lung Dealer or Distributor.

4. Make a final check of the cylinder band's tension to ensure that been secured properly. Re-tighten if necessary.
5. Before entering the water, check both weight pouches, if applicable, to ensure that they are correctly fastened to the BC.



**WARNING:** Loss of the releasable weight pouches can occur if they are not properly secured. Involuntary release of both weight pouches can cause a sudden increase in buoyancy causing a rapid ascent, and could lead to serious injury or death due to arterial gas embolism, decompression sickness, or drowning.



### POST-DIVE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

With proper care, your BC will provide many years of reliable service. The following preventive maintenance must be performed to extend the life of your BC:

1. Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and extreme heat. Nylon fabric can quickly fade when exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays, and extreme heat may damage the welded bladder seams.
2. Avoid repeated or prolonged use in heavily chlorinated water, which can cause the BC fabric to discolor and decay prematurely.
3. Do not allow the BC to chafe against any sharp objects or rough surfaces that could abrade or puncture the bladder. Do not set or drop heavy objects such as block weights on the BC.
4. Avoid any contact with oil, gasoline, aerosols, or chemical solvents.
5. To preserve the life of the bladder, rinse it inside and out with fresh water after every day of use, using the following procedure:
  - a) Pressurize the power inflator with medium pressure (MP) air via the MP hose.



**CAUTION:** Before rinsing, ensure that the inflator is pressurized with air. This will prevent debris and contaminants from entering the valve mechanism if the inflator button is accidentally depressed.

- b) Using a garden hose, direct water through the oral inflator mouthpiece or the Multiport to flush the interior of the bladder, and then thoroughly rinse the exterior of the BC.
  - c) Completely drain the bladder of water, either through the oral inflator or through the over-pressure relief valve.
  - d) After rinsing, inflate the BC, and allow it to dry inside and out.

### STORAGE

Store the BC partially inflated, away from direct sunlight and in a clean, dry area. Do not store the BC in an enclosed space, such as a car trunk, where temperatures may fall below 0°F (-18°C) or rise above 120°F (49°C).