Naval Company, Inc.

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March 31, 2008: Ammunition Shelf Life

You may be wondering if the blank ammunition for your BridgerTM Shoulder Line Throwing Gun is still good. In order to make a determination there are several things to note. First, it's important to know that the date on your BridgerTM line throwing gun blank cartridge box is the manufacture date - not the expiration date. The shelf life may be indefinite as long as they are stored properly - in a dry environment, protected from water, oil, and/or potential corrosives and heat.

Annually, we recommend you examine your blank cartridges carefully for corrosion, tarnish "darkened appearance" or damage, then test fire a couple if they appear OK. If they fire successfully, it is likely, although not absolute, that all blanks in the box will also fire. Unfortunately, the ideal storage environment is not always practical or possible. If at sea or in conditions that could negatively affect the blank cartridges, test firing more often is advisable. Always test prior to any long sea journey. After test firing, be sure to clean the line gun thoroughly prior to storage so that it will be easy to prepare for shooting in an emergency.

If you are using the line gun for life saving or other critical applications, you might want to adopt a "**Rational Replacement Policy**" and purchase new blank cartridges every 5 or 10 years, depending on your storage conditions. If stored properly, with no apparent damage or deterioration, there is no evidence your blank ammunition will fail in less than 5 or 10 years; nevertheless, because the potential for reduced reliability over time exists and lives may depend on it, a replacement plan such as this is recommended.

TIP: Throw a bag of silica gel (desiccant) in your line gun kit for good measure.

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