

# 17B Head Cushion

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### 1.1 SL 17B Head Cushion

The fit of the head cushion is critical to both comfort and safety.

The fit of the helmet is primarily determined by the thickness and layers of foam that fill the head cushion bag. In general the head cushion should fit snug and help hold the helmet to your head. The head cushion should also be adjusted so that it assists in the proper fit of the oral nasal mask to the face.

The diver's head can be moved forward into the oral nasal mask by adding layers of additional foam at the rear of the head cushion. The diver's head can be moved up or down in the helmet by decreasing or increasing the foam pads at the top of the head cushion. The foam may be cut with scissors to reduce the thickness if needed.



If the head moves, the helmet should follow.

#### NOTE

The Head Cushion Bag P/N 510-522 receives four separate foam pieces. One neck roll, one center top piece and two side pieces.

**⚠ WARNING**

On older SuperLite® 17A/B helmets the chin strap is part of the head cushion. All helmets should be changed to have the chin strap bolt directly to the helmet. Old style head cushions with chin straps may be used, but the chin strap that is bolted to the helmet **MUST** be used. We recommend that the old head cushion Chin strap be removed (i.e., cut off) to prevent confusion. Order P/N 525-716 for the helmet attached strap.

**The purpose of this strap is to hold the helmet to the diver's head if other retaining systems have failed. Without this chin strap, if other systems fail, the helmet may come loose entirely from the diver's head, causing serious injury or death from drowning.**

**1.2 Head Cushion Removal**

The SL 17B head cushion is held in place by a total of four snaps; two located at the back of the bag and one on each of the two leading edges of the front of the bag.

1. Remove the head cushion from the helmet by gently pulling away from the helmet. Effort should be placed at snap points.
2. Open the head cushion bag by separating the Velcro® seams and then remove foam. Clean out any old foam particles if found.

**1.3 Clean and Inspect**

1. Clean head cushion bag using mild soap and water. Rinse thoroughly and hang dry.
2. Inspect head cushion bag to ensure there are no rips or tears in the materials. Velcro® should be in good working condition and secured to head cushion bag entirely with no loose gaps in the sewing. Replace if needed; order the head cushion bag P/N 510-522

**⚠ CAUTION**

**A loose head cushion will create a sloppy fit and cause discomfort for the diver and may cause poor oral nasal mask fit-up increasing the risk of CO<sub>2</sub> buildup in the helmet. CO<sub>2</sub> buildup may cause the diver headaches, that impair performance and lead to accidental injury.**

3. Inspect each foam piece. If foam is beginning to crumble and shows signs of breaking down it will need to be replaced. Order replacement foam kit P/N 510-523.

**1.4 Fit Test**

For a basic fit test put the helmet on the head without the yoke/neck dam. With one hand on the helmet handle holding the helmet in a steady straight-on position have diver turn head. The helmet should follow.

**NOTE**

Even with the correct fit a diver will be able to force their face out away from the oral nasal with increasing strength. The above test is intended to be used with minimal force and resulting helmet tracking.

For divers with smaller sized heads the helmet will not follow and the face of the diver will turn away from and out of the oral nasal mask. Install the head cushion foam spacer HCFS before installing head cushion into the helmet for sizing solution.

**1.5 Foam Trimming**

The tips of the “egg shell” side can be trimmed off if the side foams are too tight.

**1.5.1 Foam Stuffing Tips**

There is no one way in the order of stuffing the head cushion. The foam can be set up with smooth or egg shell side to the helmet or face and foam can be trimmed depending on desired fit.

**1.6 Head Cushion Foam Spacer (HCFS)**

The head cushion foam spacer (HCFS) is a simple length of foam that is nested into the head cushion. The spacer helps properly position the top and back of the head in the helmet by using a larger foam piece in the lower neck area which

helps push the head forward, and the nose and mouth into the oral nasal mask.



The tag on the HCFS and sewing seam should be facing the back against the head cushion

### 1.6.1 Installation of Head Cushion Foam Spacer (HCFS)



**NOTE**

In September of 2012 the head cushion foam spacer (HCFS) was upgraded with an elastic/ Velcro® strap at the top front part of the HCFS bag. This new feature is intended for use with head cushions P/N 510-754, or the 510-521 which have the mating Velcro® patches.



**NOTE**

If using the HCFS with P/N 510-682 or a P/N 510-521 without a Velcro® patch, the elastic/Velcro® strap can simply be folded over the top front portion between the head cushion and the helmet shell, or it may be trimmed off if desired.

1. Install the HCFS into the top inside portion of the head cushion. Wrap the elastic/Velcro® strap around the front top edge and attach onto the mating Velcro® patch in front of the hanging loop.

### **CAUTION**

**Ensure that the HCFS is properly positioned against the back of the head/ neck and does not get caught between the base of the helmet and the neck clamp/yoke when closing the helmet. Failure to do so could result in an improper seal. This may result in water intrusion, causing diver anxiety or panic which can lead to accidents and injuries.**



Align the front of the HCFS with the front edge of the head cushion, wrap the elastic/Velcro Strap around to the top of the head cushion and secure.

The tag on the HCFS and sewing seam should be facing the back against the head cushion

Align the front of the HCFS with the front edge of the head cushion, wrap the elastic/Velcro® strap around to the top of the head cushion and secure.

### 1.6.2 Maintenance of the Head Cushion Foam Spacer (HCFS)

**Daily:** Post dive rinse with fresh water, air dry.

**Periodic:** Remove foam and fresh water rinse. Do NOT use detergent or mild soap, this could cause premature deterioration of the foam. Hand wash the HCFS bag using a rinse with fresh water only and air dry.

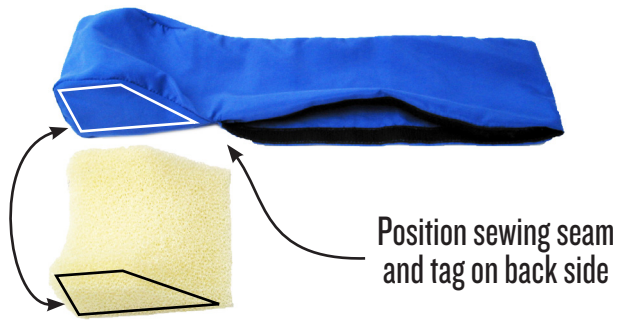
### 1.6.3 Stuffing the Head Cushion Foam Spacer (HCFS)

1. Stuff the neck foam block and top foam into the HCFS bag. Close the Velcro®.



**NOTE**

Match the shape of the neck foam block with the shape of the HCFS bag.



*Match the shape of the foam block with the shape of the pocket*