



*Information sourced from IMCA Safety Flash*

## Failure of COBRA contents pressure gauge

### What happened

Whilst at the COBRA charging station in the bell hangar during project mobilisation, a diver was venting a COBRA unit, prior to charging. The diver opened the valve slowly, and when the gauge reached 100 bar a 'popping' sound was heard and the gauge fell to the floor. The diver immediately closed the valve and reported to the Dive tech Supervisor.



COBRA unit



Area where gauge failed

### **What were the causes?**

- Immediate Cause – failure of thread
- Underlying Cause – impact load placed on thread connection during use
  - Dive technical examination by subject matter experts concluded that the thread failed due to dynamic damage, likely caused by being bumped, knocked or stood on during use.

### **Actions**

- All COBRA and bail out gauges inspected and replaced as necessary;
- Planned Maintenance System updated to include monthly inspection of contents gauge, inclusive of gauge being removed from the HP hose to check integrity of fittings;
- Third-party inspection of failed gauge;
- Improved traceability through all contents gauges being serialized units.

Overall, an opportunity taken to make improvements to maintenance and equipment traceability in order to further improve resilience of equipment.