



Field Bulletin 22nd Dec. 2009

DON'T GET BURNT!

Copies of Safari Snorkel Systems Manufactured in China

People place a great deal of trust in a snorkel system and over the years, Safari snorkels have built a reputation as the ultimate insurance against engine damage from dust and water.

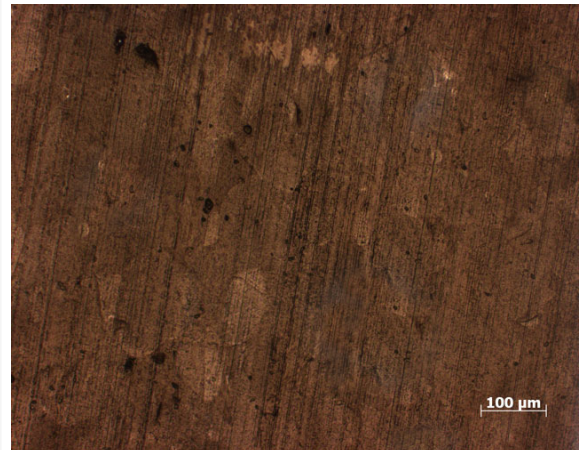
Consumers have never experienced poor quality copy snorkels from China

Unfortunately, during 2009, a veritable flood of low cost snorkels began appearing on the market. Whilst they appear to be exact copies of Safari snorkels, there are a number of issues that must be exposed in order to educate the consumer who may have never experienced poor quality copy products manufactured from inferior materials in China.

Safari snorkel systems are manufactured from Australian plastics with special additives

Safari snorkel systems are manufactured in Australia from Australian plastic materials that contain special additives. The base polymer and additives are compounded under precise conditions through exacting chemical reactions to create a homogeneous material that has exceptional resistance to the sun's damaging rays, strong physical properties and tough impact resistance.

Under the microscope, it is clearly evident that there is no graininess. The result is strong bonding down to the molecular level and consistent distribution and performance of all the additives throughout the entire component.



Safari Snorkel material - No graininess and strong bonding down to the molecular level

Cheap Chinese copies use poorly compounded and inferior materials

The cheap Chinese copies however are a minefield of problems and a real trap for the unwary consumer who would understandably expect the same level of product performance. Whilst the copy components look very similar to the genuine Safari snorkel and are promoted as using a similar base polyethylene material, the key points of difference are what ADDITIVES are then mixed with the base material and the MANNER in which the (correct) additives are MIXED or COMPOUNDED with the base material.

Under the microscope, the cheap Chinese snorkel material displays a distinctly grainy or crystal like structure where the additive/colouring agents simply coat the base material – rather than combining in a homogeneous structure.



Chinese Copy Snorkel Material - distinctly grainy or crystal like structure where additive and colouring agents simply coat the base material. Consistency varies markedly throughout the part.

Poor level of material consistency throughout the component

To make matters worse, when sampled from different areas, the consistency of the material and mix of the Chinese copy snorkel varies markedly depending upon what part of the component is analysed. This has a huge impact upon the level of UV and structural performance of the component and even if some areas could be considered satisfactory, others are not.

Poor UV resistance to the Sun's rays and brittle when cold

This means that UV resistance becomes a serious problem and that these components will degrade markedly under prolonged exposure to the sun. Moreover, the physical properties are again markedly different to the genuine Safari component – particularly at cold ambient temperatures where a knock from a passing branch can crack the snorkel body – rendering it useless and dangerous at the next water crossing.

Put simply, the inferior Chinese manufactured copy product cannot be relied upon to deliver the level of component performance and durability that Safari customers have enjoyed for over three decades. Regardless of cost, there is no peace of mind with inferior products.



Impact Damage - Cracked snorkel body from a blow that barely marks the surface of a genuine Safari snorkel.

Same problem with cheap Chinese outdoor equipment

To draw a parallel, professionally molded Australian recreational outdoor equipment such as children's playgrounds have been used by schools and councils for years. These products are manufactured from the correctly compounded materials and enjoy many years of durable service life out under the harsh Australian sun.

Contrast this with inferior home use playground equipment from China that is sold through large discount chains. As many parents would know, it would be unusual for the product to last one Australian summer without discolouring and cracking.

Hardware corrosion that spreads to the vehicle

Whilst the mounting hardware and brackets may look the same, there are huge discrepancies in the material quality. For example, hose clamps that have a stainless steel band are often constructed with a plain steel screw. Brackets are often mild steel and then painted or even worse, studs in the wrong grade of stainless steel or plated mild steel. Inserts in the snorkel body are often made of aluminium or plated steel. The list goes on and unfortunately for the consumer, the problems don't appear for some time - but when they do, it will be too late. The corrosion will most likely have fused components together and rust spread to vehicle panels.

All genuine Safari snorkel fasteners, clamps and brackets are 100% stainless steel, of the correct grade for the job and the stud inserts formed inside the snorkel body are high quality brass for a lifetime of component serviceability and zero corrosion.

Consumers must have total trust in a snorkel system

It is our strong belief at Safari that inferior materials and manufacturing techniques have no place on vital components such as snorkels. As 4WD enthusiasts, we rely on our snorkels for total peace of mind to protect the engine against harmful water and dust. That can only be achieved with a snorkel you can trust – the genuine Australian made Safari snorkel system.



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