

Rhiwbach Buoyancy Aid (BA) Checks

Use of these BAs are at the users own risk. Instructional staff must satisfy themselves the BAs are fit for purpose prior to each use. Suspect BAs must be removed from the mine to be (preferably) repaired and returned or retired. Please report any retired BAs via www.nwminereports.co.uk

Periodic thorough checks

The following checks should be made every 12 months by a competent person, who must complete this sheet and initial the bottom row. This will normally take place during the mine's inspection period. Passed BAs noted with an ✓ any retired/missing BAs should be marked with a ✕.

Visual check (all BAs)

- Check the body of the BA for damage
- Check all buckles and webbing function correctly
- Check all zips are undamaged and function correctly

Batch float test

- Float test of a sample of BAs representing the "worst" looking BAs in service
- Test procedure on the back of this sheet

No	Size	Type/Description	Date of first use	Rated	March 2024		March 2025		March 2026		March 2027	
					Visual	Float	Visual	Float	Visual	Float	Visual	Float
1	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓					
2	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓	79.4				
3	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓	76.5	✓					
5	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓	80.4				
6	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓					
7	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓	81.3				
8	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓					
9	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓	82.1				
10	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	65N	✓		✓					
12	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	10/18	70N	✓	73.5	✓					
13	Jnr	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
20	Jnr	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
21	XXS	Spiral Lifejacket	11/15	40N	✓	63	✓	65				
22	XXS	Spiral Lifejacket	11/15	40N	✓	68	✓	67.2				
23	Jnr	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
24	Jnr	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
25	XS-S	Lifejacket (orange)	4/18	108N	✓	108	✓					
26	M	Crewsaver (red)	11/15	60N	✓	66	✓	61				
27	S/M	Crewsaver Four B		70N			✓	New				
28	XL	Crewsaver (red)	2/16	70N	✓		✓	86.2				
30	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	65N			✓	New				
31	XL	Crewsaver Four B	3/19	70N	✓	81	✓					
32	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
33	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
34	XXL	Crewsaver Four B	3/19	70N	✓	68*	✓	76				
35	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
36	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
37	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
38	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	10/25	70N			✓	New				
41	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	65N	✓	✓						
42	S/M	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	65N	✓	✓						
43	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓	81.2					
44	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓						
45	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓						
46	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓	✓					
47	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓	81.2					

50	M/L	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓	✓	New				
51	XL	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓	78.1					
52	XL	Crewsaver Four B	4/24	70N	✓	✓						
Signature/Initials of competent person & date					Ed Jones. March 2024		Phil Dale. March 2024					

Rhiwbach Buoyancy Aid (BA) Checks

Please make any notes relating to changes/issues noticed during the periodic inspections here

Date	Note	By whom
Aug 2024	Sheet updated including new BAs. Note selective float tests undertaken in March 2024 with results noted. XXL BA fell short of the stated buoyancy on the jacket however above the EN standard so left in circulation. New BAs 48 and 49 missing during August stock check	Gethin Thomas & Ed Jones.
March 2025	All buoyancy aids visually checked, several float tested. One removed from service having failed the float test. BAs 1-34 showing signs of wear; monitor. Raft visually inspected. Grab rope around sides detached. Repaired needed. 2 pumps functioning, only 4 paddles.	Phil Dale
October 2025	New BAs put into service and all BAs listed above accounted for, visual checks only.	Gethin Thomas

Float test procedure

You'll need

- Luggage weighing scales
- Length of rope
- Weight (metal and at least 10kg)

Procedure

- Test at least 1 BA of each type/size, selecting the most worn looking
- Secure the weight to one end of the rope and luggage weighing scale to the other
- Drop the weight into the water and note the weight reading when the weight is suspended in the water (typically a 10kg metal weight will reduce to 8-9kg)
- Secure a test BA to the weight and drop into the water, waiting until all air bubbles have gone (the BA should sink)
- Note the weight from the luggage scales
- Deduct the weight from the test with the BA from the original
- Multiply your result by 9.8 to convert the kg reading to Newton's
- Check that the reading in Newton's exceed that noted on the BA. If it is less retire the BA
- Note the reading in Newton's on the table
- Hang tested BAs to dry

Further details including a video tutorial on this system to test the BAs is available here: