



Fire And Emergency NZ Firefighter Illumination Capability Update December 2022 update

- After a competitive procurement process as required by the Government Procurement Rules, Fire and Emergency selected the Pelican Products Inc, 3415M angled torch as its preferred Firefighter Illumination Capability (FIC).
- The Pelican torch selected, met all Fire and Emergency's capability requirements and exceeded them in some cases – for example the Pelican torch offered an integral battery condition monitor and a limited lifetime warranty.
- Fire and Emergency placed an initial order for 13,100 torches, 12,600 for an initial personal issue to operational firefighters and 500 torches for new recruits and as attrition stock to replace those torches lost to the organisation through fair wear and tear.
- An initial order fulfillment of 2,400 torches was received by the Rolleston equipment distribution centre in late July and production of 5400 units was commenced at the supplier's factory at the same time.
- In August, it was discovered that our Pelican torches, which come equipped with a magnet embedded in its clip, could in certain circumstances be placed in a position on a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) (BA) Distress Signal Unit (DSU) whereupon the DSU would be disabled for as long as the magnet was held against it.
- We conducted a risk analysis which concluded that though the likelihood was low, the risk of a firefighter, wearing BA and becoming incapacitated and trapping the magnet against the DSU could have potentially very serious consequences, especially if the firefighter was working alone or had become separated from his/her buddy.
- As part of understanding the risk, we contacted other emergency services jurisdictions to see if they had had any issues with their torches causing issues with the BA DSU. We also contacted Dräger and Pelican Products who were unaware of the issue.
- Fire Rescue New South Wales have had a significant number of these torches in service for a few years but they do not have the magnet equipped clip so they have not had any issue with their torches affecting the BA set DSU.



**Magnet Equipped
Clip**



**Position On DSU
That Will Disable It**

- As a result of our findings and after consultation with the original FIC Evaluation Team and other operational personnel, we decided to remove the magnet equipped clip and replace it with a non-magnet equipped one which are standard from the factory.
- This action required us to work directly with the supplier and 'rework' those torches that were off-production and awaiting shipment and those torches already in stock at our Rolleston facility waiting distribution.
- This action also inevitably delayed the shipment/distribution of the first batch of torches for individual issue.
- This work with our supplier concluded in late September, was confirmed in early October and the rework process has started immediately.
- The re-work only applies to the initial shipment of 2,400 and the first 5,400 coming off production. It will not affect the second 5,400 due to begin production in November to be ready for distribution in February.

- The first 5,400 torches will be re-worked at the supplier's factory and the 2,400 in NZ will be re-worked locally at a supplier approved facility to preserve the limited lifetime warranty.
- Fire and Emergency will pay for the re-work.
- The updated delivery schedule is as follows:
 - The 2,400 in NZ have been re-worked and delivered to the E&L Distribution Centre in Rolleston.
 - The balance of 10,800 are due to arrive via seafreight on the 28th December. This shipment has suffered delays due to congestion at the port in Auckland
 - Delivery to E&L Distribution Centres will be in early-mid January 2023.
- We are still aiming to have the FIC capability fully distributed the first quarter of 2023 as originally advised through the National notices that have been issued as updates to the FIC.
- All other FIC functionality and features that led us to select the Pelican 3415M torch in the first place remain. The Pelican torch is superior to other torches Fire and Emergency was offered as part of the formal and competitive procurement process.