



Valves with bronze stem (yellow color) do not need to be replaced.

Valves with stainless steel stem (silver color) should be replaced.

Groco is asking customers to check the valve stem on Groco seacocks. Those with a stainless stem (silver in color) should be replaced.

Groco Recalls Suspect Through-hulls

Groco has issued a recall for a series of seacocks and valves commonly used for through-hull fittings manufactured between 2004 and 2006.

Groco's design for the imported valves in the model series IBV, FBV, FV, and TWV specified a high-grade stainless-steel valve stem. Groco has discovered that the stem material used in some of the valves manufactured between 2004 and 2006 may not have complied with Groco's specifications. Valves without spec stems may not be suitable for salt-water use. Since the non-compliant silver-color stems may fail when the valve is actuated, Groco seeks to have all such valves

removed from service. Groco will supply replacement valves at no charge. According to the company, valves with gold-colored (bronze) stems are not affected. (See photos above.) For more information on the recall, visit the Groco website at www.groco.net or call 410/712-4242.

Practical Sailor has found reports of similar problems among Chinese-made through-hulls under different brands. Hunter Yachts issued a recall regarding through-hulls on its boats last year. The recall reiterates the need for boaters to inspect their through-hulls on an annual basis and keep tapered wooden plugs close at hand.

Nobeltec Maker Warns of Defect in Nav Software

Jeppesen Marine, a Boeing company and maker of Nobeltec software navigation products, is warning customers of a defect in the code base for its chart data and navigation software. The defect affects Nobeltec's Navigation VNS or Admiral software, Nobeltec Passport charts, and the Northstar 972 Chartplotter.

Certain Nobeltec Passport chart features (including buoys, markers, contours, underwater obstructions, etc.) may display incorrectly, or not at all, when used in conjunction with certain Nobeltec navigation software packages, and original equipment manufacturer solutions.

To correct the problem, Jeppesen is offering free software patches that the company says will eliminate the problem. One of the patches for the navigation software disables the ability to import the free government S-57 charts. S-57 charts that were previously imported will be deleted or rendered unavailable for display.

Nobeltec Admiral 9.1 was reviewed in the August 2007 issue of *Practical Sailor*. It was not one of our recommended products in its class.