

# **service bulletin**

- WARRANTY INFORMATION     SERVICE INFORMATION  
 PARTS INFORMATION

Bulletin No. 2003-02

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## Aftermarket Replacement Aluminum Anodes

### Models Affected

All MCM and Outboard applications having aluminum anodes.

### Situation

Several companies have begun manufacturing replacement aluminum anodes under various brand names which are available through independent marine distributors. Our analysis has concluded that despite their claims of purity and effectiveness, some of these manufacturers of aluminum anodes use alloys which are insufficiently pure to adequately protect critical drive components for the duration of the anodes' expected life.

Mercury's testing has revealed that the chemical composition of some of these aluminum anodes does not meet Mercury Marine's specification for corrosion protection. The results of a chemical analysis of numerous anode samples have found no less than four (4) critical elements that are drastically outside our specified limits and those put forth by the United States military in specification MIL-A-24779(SH). These inferior anodes may create significant corrosion problems for you and your customers.

Anodes are designed to be galvanically very active and, therefore, corrode first, protecting critical drive components. Because they are self-sacrificing, anodes must be made to exacting standards, inspected often, and replaced when 50% consumed.

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Several years ago Mercury Marine began using aluminum anodes in most of our applications. We moved away from zinc anodes because the more galvanically active aluminum anodes provide better protection for our drive components. It is **extremely important** that aluminum anodes be produced from the correct alloy or they will fail to protect the drive system as intended. Aluminum anodes should be manufactured to meet or exceed the United States military specification MIL-A-24779(SH). All anodes sold by Mercury Marine exceed this specification.

In order to properly protect critical drive components and assure continuing satisfaction of our mutual end user customers, we **strongly** recommend the use of genuine Mercury Precision Parts or Quicksilver branded replacement anodes when servicing Mercury Marine products to be certain that these critical components will be adequately protected from corrosion. Mercury will not cover corrosion warranty claims where customers have not adequately protected their critical drive components.

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