



MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE SERVICE – A VITAL PART OF MARINA MANAGEMENT

Pontoon equipment is subject to continual movement and fluctuation in stresses and must be regarded more as plant than static equipment.

Site conditions vary widely in marinas and the degree of maintenance required will vary correspondingly.

The maintenance service features:

- Regular Inspections
- Structural Reports
- Comprehensive Servicing of
Floats
Decks
Moorings

SERVICE CONTRACT

Walcon engineers will inspect and prepare a full maintenance report on any marina installation with recommendations for urgent and desirable work.

The general maintenance advice provided overleaf is given to assist in obtaining the maximum life from pontoon equipment.



A comprehensive service is included in Walcon's range of marina activities. An annual contract is offered to cover regular maintenance on Walcon installed pontoons together with emergency call-out service where appropriate. Each contract is negotiated to suit the exposure, location and type of system used.

As an alternative, experienced Walcon engineers may be retained to prepare a structural report on any marina or other type of marine floating structure.



FLOATS

Walcon Marine floats are known for their reliability and no maintenance should be required. Small cracks in the surface concrete are no defect and will not result in a loss of buoyancy or in any way effect the performance of the unit.

It is usually not necessary to remove growth from the floats as this does not significantly affect the buoyancy.

Damage to floats can only occur from mechanical means such as impact, grounding or excessive wave action.

If exposed, the expanded polystyrene core to the floats will be attacked by petroleum products.



STEEL STRUCTURES

Most steel structures are hot dip galvanised to BS.729. The expected life of such a treatment varies depending upon its exposure.

Should the galvanising break down, due to local damage, it can be remedied by thorough cleaning (e.g. wire brushing, needle gun chipping) and treatment with zinc rich paint.

ALUMINIUM STRUCTURES

Aluminium will quickly develop a white surface coating which is not detrimental to the structure. It need not be remedied other than for aesthetic reasons.

In the event of structural damage, it is usually necessary to take the affected item/items to a covered workshop to carry out welded repairs.

MOORING POINTS AND CHAIN MOORINGS

Pontoons held by chains generally require more maintenance than those fixed by piles.

It is difficult to obtain an even distribution of loading with a moored system which may lead to higher local stresses within the floating elements.

The life of the timber can be enhanced by ensuring the surface is kept clean. Moss or lichen should be regularly cleaned from the deck.

This can be achieved by use of a high pressure water hose or scrubbing machine. Regular washing of the deck with salt water, allowing the salt to dry on the surface, helps to prevent growth or algae.

JOINTS

The most vulnerable part of any pontoon system is the joints. Loose joints promote wear and it is advisable to inspect and tighten if necessary all joints and connections at least once a year and after severe weather.

Joint wear is very dependent on exposure of the site.

Pontoons that take the ground at certain states of the tide are also liable to require regular joint maintenance due to the twisting and bending that can arise when grounding on an uneven surface.

Rubber connection blocks which form part of all Walcon flexible joints may require replacing when badly deformed or age hardened. It is usually most cost effective to replace both bolts and rubber blocks on a planned basis.