

8D-Ice protection plate for DL850S27

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Ice protecting plate, background and assessment

The first edition of ice protection plate was made of the material PE. However, that material was not good enough for gluing attachment to the sensor surface.

The decision was then to change the material to PET. This material is good as far as the gluing attachment, but it turned out to be too brittle, in fact more brittle than the sensor surface material it self. On later installations, we faced these problems with cracks of the PET material used for Ice protection that is very brittle as shown in the photo above. We have seen several incidents of cracking of the ice protection plate, leading air bubbles in between the protection plate and the sensor surface, causing the speed log to fail.

In addition, our experience with the ice protection plate is that users tend to handle the sensor a bit rougher than they do with a sensor without ice protection plate. The combination of rougher handling and more brittle material has caused incidents of cracked ice protection plates as shown on the picture.



It is our professional judgement that the speed log sensor will perform better and more stable without the ice protecting plate because the ice protection plate itself may crack and cause the log sensor to fail.

Action performed

After some attempts to improve the design it was decided to withdraw the product from the market because of the materials available on the commercial market today do not have parameters to overcome acoustic physics basis. **The ice protection plate is therefore withdrawn from the market.**

Important Note

For ships intended for arctic class, SKIPPER Electronics recommends mounting the speed log sensor in a sea valve. Please note that SKIPPER equipment is not certified to be mounted within the ice belts on any vessel. Sensor must be mounted outside of the ice belt.

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