

Conditions of life rafts

First life raft

Inspection of the first life raft, in deflated condition did not show any evidences of physical damage such as hole or cut in the rubberised section of the buoyancy units or the floor unit.

Reports from passengers that the first life raft was slowly deflating could be due to:

- Inherent leak in the buoyancy tube and gas bottles nozzles assembly;
or
- The raft buoyancy units itself were having leaks that could only be noticeable when the raft is fully inflated.

Second life raft

Inspection of the second life raft, in deflated condition, showed the raft separated and detached into three different sections, i.e. the top buoyancy unit, bottom buoyancy unit and floor unit.

Additionally, there was evidence of broken one-way safety valve tube from its assembly unit i.e. both tubes were ripped off at the base (hardened rubberised compound) connected to the buoyancy unit – thus, the immediate loss of air.



According to passengers' account, after the bottom buoyancy unit was deflated, the floor of the raft began to tear at the side. Under normal operating condition, the raft of the floor was held in place by both buoyancy units. Therefore, when the bottom unit failed, higher stress was placed on the already stressed floor from passengers' weight that eventually caused the floor to tear at the side.