Storage and signage
The bottle ring should be stored in a clean and dry location away from direct sunlight. During use the bottle ring should be in position at an associated body of water ready for deployment at all times. A sign should be placed near the bottle ring to show how to use it.

Ownership
A member of the community should be given ownership of the bottle ring. This person should be responsible for making sure that it is ready for use at all times by making a regular check each day.

Community awareness
The whole community should be made aware of the bottle ring and where it is placed. They should be given a demonstration of how to use the bottle ring to rescue a casualty. The community, especially the children should be made aware that the bottle ring should not be used as a toy.

Law
You must make sure that you obey any law in your country or community that may affect the use or construction of the bottle ring.

Safety
The bottle ring should only be used as a piece of rescue equipment or swimming aid (without rope and if under supervision of a qualified swimming teacher).

Bottle ring replacement
The bottle ring should be replaced every year. This is because sunlight will damage the bottles over time.

Bottle ring strength
The bottle ring should be tested by ONE person pulling on the Bottle Ring while its end is tied to a static object (eg. a tree).

The line must be made from a material that floats on water. Polypropylene is often used.
1. Cut a rectangle of fabric measuring 1340mm x 350mm.

2. Fold the fabric, outside face to outside face along its length.

3. Sew down one short end and then along the entire length, back tacking at either end. Use a strong thick thread and very strong stitch pattern.

4. Use a 10-12mm seam allowance. Make sure you leave one end open.

5. Turn the item right way round, you should now have a ‘sock’ of fabric with the seams on the inside.

6. Fill each of the bottles with 100ml of water.

7. Make sure the caps are replaced and screwed tightly.

8. Place the bottles into the bag, orient the necks/lids to face outwards on the two outer bottles.

9. With the bottles inserted, fold over the fabric on the open end before sewing.
10. Sew a straight stitch at either end 20mm from each edge.

11. Arrange the bottles towards the middle of the bag, and then make the triangle shape.

12. Match the two stitched ends together. Stitch the ends together, back stitching to secure. Use a very strong stitch pattern.

13. Finally, twist the middle bottle as needed in order to tighten up the whole assembly.

14. Attach your line as shown in steps 14–17. This is a bowline knot.

15. Attaching a line. You can also watch the video on: https://youtu.be/Q9NqGd7464U

16. Attaching a line.

17. Attaching a line.

18. Attaching a line. Make sure the tail of the line is at least one hand width.
Rescue use

The following steps show you how to use the bottle ring in a rescue situation.

Step 1
• Attract the attention of the person in trouble.
• Remember to adjust your throw to take into account the wind and flow of water.

Step 2
• Throw the Bottle Ring to the person, remembering to hold on to the end of the line.

Step 3
• Pull the person to safety, tell the person to kick their legs to help.

After-use care

After use, the bottle ring and line should be inspected for damage, cleaned in freshwater if possible and dried in a warm place (away from direct sunlight). It should be placed back in the area that it is protecting as soon as possible.

Test schedule

The line and bottle ring should be inspected after every use and at a minimum of once a month to ensure that they are not damaged.

During testing, make sure the following procedure is carried out.
• Make sure the line is tied to the bottle ring with the correct knot.
• Check material and stitching for damage and replace if needed.
• Squeeze the ring to ensure that the bottles are still sealed and that they contain water.
• Test the bottle ring by throwing it into water and pulling back in.
• Test the bottle ring and line by tying the line around a tree and pulling the bottle ring, being careful not to crush the bottles.
• Check the entire length of the line for any damage. If damage is found, replace the full length of the line.

Feedback

The RNLI welcomes feedback on this information and the bottle ring design. Please email international@rnli.org.uk with comments and suggestions.

If you have a story involving this item of equipment or if you have used it to help or save someone, please email details and any photographs to international@rnli.org.uk.

Disclaimer

The content of this manual is for general guidance only. It represents best practice as at the date of publication and should not be considered as legal advice. Those using this manual should seek professional advice as and when necessary. The RNLI does not accept responsibility for any errors in this document.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, the RNLI accepts no responsibility and makes no warranties of any kind regarding the use or manufacture of the bottle ring. The use of the bottle ring by the user is solely at the user’s risk.

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