

Circulate to: Sales Manager Accounting Service Manager Technician Parts Manager

3000 Series Zeus Pod—Red MerCathode Controller (with LED Light) Operation

Models Affected

Models Covered
All Zeus 3000 Series KH Model Pods

Scope

Worldwide

Situation

The red (Generation II) MerCathode controller, 8M0082462, is installed on all KH model Zeus pods. Photo of the controller is shown below.



- a - LED light
- b - Diagnostic pigtail

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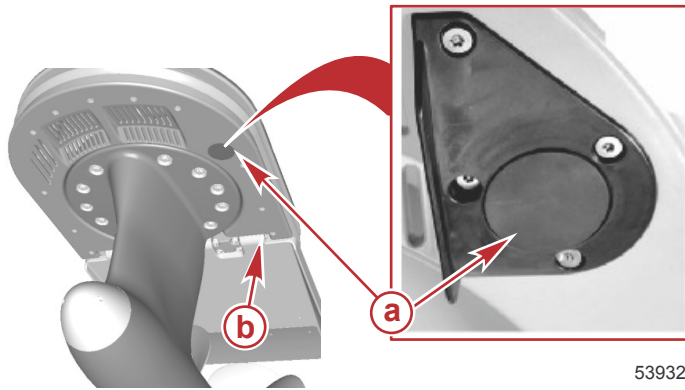
This controller produces electrical current that flows into the water to protect the propulsion system from corrosion. While this current will not cause injury, it may be felt by a diver/swimmer in close proximity to the MerCathode anode.

NOTE: In order to alleviate any concerns this electric field may cause, **it is recommended to disconnect power to the MerCathode controller while divers/swimmers are within 1 m (3 ft) of the anode.** Power can be disconnected by either removing the fuse (contained in the controller wire harness), or by opening a circuit breaker on the controller power circuit. If power cannot be disconnected, stay 1 m (3 ft) away from the MerCathode anode, and recommend the diver wear full finger diving gloves.

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As reference, the MerCathode anode location is shown below:



- a - Anode
- b - Reference electrode (not visible in this view)

Owner Notification

A letter will be sent to every registered owner of Zeus 3000 series KH model pods. The letter recommends that the owner have the MerCathode controller disconnected whenever divers/swimmers are in the water and within 1 m (3 ft) of the MerCathode anode.

A copy of the customer letter is included with this service bulletin for your reference.

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Dear Mercury Zeus Owner:

Thank you for your purchase of a Mercury Marine product. Mercury Marine is dedicated to providing superior product reliability and customer satisfaction. As part of our commitment to superior customer satisfaction, we are providing the following product update:

What is the condition?

The Mercury Zeus pod in your vessel contains a new and enhanced MerCathode system which is designed to electronically protect the in-water components associated with the propulsion system. When activated, this protection system produces current that flows into the water to protect the propulsion system from corrosion. The source of this electrical current for the MerCathode system is the controller, and from there it travels to the electronic anode and into the water. While this current will not cause injury, it may be felt by a diver/swimmer in close proximity to the anode. Refer to "Section 5 – Maintenance" in your Owner's Manual for the location of the MerCathode electronic anode on your Zeus pod.

Not everyone experiences electrical fields the same way and to the same extent. You may not notice an electrical field sensation (light tingling) within an inch of the anode whereas another person may be able to detect it up to one foot away from the anode. Also, the electrical field strength does increase the closer you get to the anode and each person's comfort level is unique in this regard. Finally, the salinity (conductivity) of the water makes a difference in how far away from the anode you may be able to sense this electrical field.

If electrical current is ever felt when in the water, you should always get out.

Additional bonded metal components in the vicinity (stainless steel hardware on swim platforms, ladders, etc.) may cause the MerCathode output to be higher than typical. Even if the system is at maximum output, it will not cause personal injury.

What will Mercury do?

Included with this letter is a new Operation, Maintenance, and Warranty Manual, which will provide additional details. Please discard your existing manual.

What should you do?

In order to alleviate any concerns this electric field may cause, it is recommended to disconnect power to the MerCathode controller while divers/swimmers are within 1 m (3 ft) of the anode. Refer to "Section 5 – Maintenance" in your Owner's Manual for the location of the MerCathode controller on your Zeus pod. If power cannot be disconnected, stay 1 m (3 ft) away from the anode, and recommend the diver wear full finger diving gloves. Power can be disconnected by either removing the fuse (contained in the controller wire harness), or by opening a circuit breaker on the controller power circuit. Please contact the dealer or boat manufacturer for the location of the fuse or circuit breaker if it is not readily apparent.

What if you have any other questions or if you no longer own this product?

Please contact your Mercury Diesel dealer or call Mercury Diesel Customer Service at 1-920-929-5040 between 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM CST.

We have sent this notice in the interest of your continued satisfaction with our product.

Thank you for boating with Mercury Marine.
Mercury Marine Service