

Dunlop Diving Suits

For a quarter of a century or more, Dunlop Rubber Company remained a leading designer and manufacturer of suits for military and commercial divers.

The company showed greater reluctance, however, when it came to the supply of the post-war recreational diving market, believing that little or no demand existed for subaqua gear among the general population during peacetime. Although the Dunlop Sports Company later relented, introducing the Aquafort underwater swimming equipment range, including wet and dry suits, the line was discontinued after a while.



Dunlop Special Products Suit

Dunlop Diving Suit Facts

- The picture on the left illustrates an experimental moulded rubber and stockinette 2-piece diving suit manufactured by Dunlop Special Products. “The Dunlop frogman suit is an excellent elastic tight fitting suit, but it has the disadvantage that a dresser is necessary. (...)The suit has a neck entry of only 4-ins. diameter, which has to be stretched so that it can be pulled up round the diver. (...) The same firm will shortly be placing a similar suit on the market, but in two piece form with the usual skirts” (Hampton, 1955).
- In 1957 Peter Small, co-founder of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), described a Dunlop 2-piece suit, latest on the market, as “rubber/stockinette, the bootees are an integral part of the suit, but the hood is optional. A refinement is that the neck seal is marked with concentric rings, graduated according to collar size, so that you can trim it to fit your neck. It costs £15 7s 6d, without the hood, £16 6s 6d with hood; the same models in all-rubber cost £11 17s and £13 2, 6d respectively” (Small, 1957).
- In 1997, diver Steve Metcalfe’s message “Ancient Fashion” appeared online. “While helping tidying up after my son’s school jumble sale”, he wrote, “I came across a bag containing what looked like an old wet suit. On closer examination it revealed an old dry suit, By old I mean VERY OLD! Aquafort is the name on the suit, I suspect that it may be of Canadian origin since the bag of French chalk with it had a Canadian suppliers address on it. It is in two parts with a latex fold over seal at the waist and is made of non reinforced rubber and has an integral dry hood with foam pads over the ears. Although it looks it good condition and has been kept dusted with French chalk I don’t think that it will replace my existing Polar Bear.” (Metcalfe, 1997)
- Diver Tony Moore posted the following description of an early Dunlop dry suit with a shoulder zip: “In 1961-ish I owned a Dunlop 'Z' type dry suit. If it wasn't the first zipped suit in the world, it was certainly an early 'zip across the shoulders' style. Present day zips look identical to my old one; in fact, the suit would not look out of place on a dive today apart from its lack of pressurisation and venting. Greater cylinder air capacity with its potential for deeper and longer dives made dry suit pressurisation a must.” (Moore, n.d.)

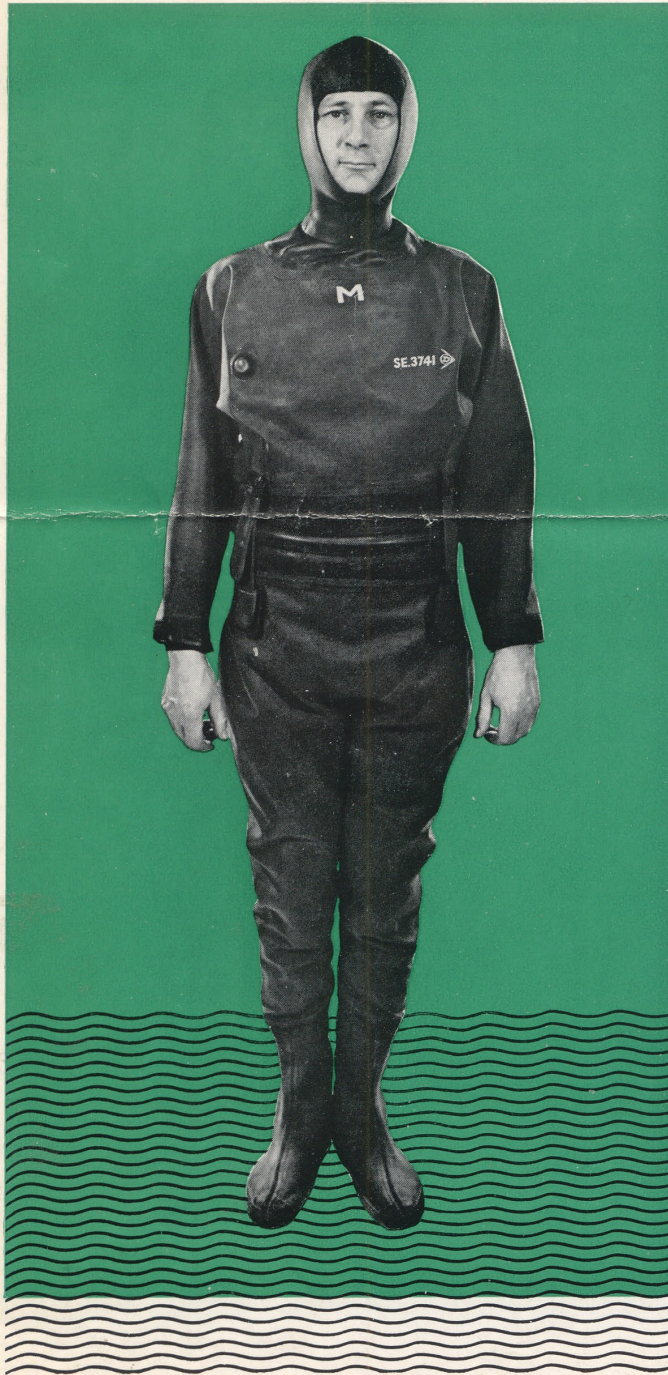
References

1. T. A. Hampton (1955) *The Master Diver and Underwater Sportsman*, Southampton: Adlard Coles Limited in association with George Harrap & Co and John de Graff Inc.
2. Steve Metcalfe (1997) *Ancient Fashion*, <http://lists.drogon.net/scuba-uk-ndg/archive/scuba-uk/1997/q1/msg00820.html>
3. Tony Moore (n.d.) <http://fsac.org.uk/index.php?template=article&content=goodOldDays1>
4. Peter Small (1957) *Your Guide to Underwater Adventure*, London: Lutterworth Press.

INTRODUCING THE



2 PIECE DRY DIVING DRESS · S.E.3741



The Dunlop two piece dry diving dress is made from the super flexible crimped Nylon material proofed with high grade Rubber used on the successful Dunlop one piece suit. This material gives the characteristics of a multi-way stretch garment.

The two piece suit is made by the new vacuum moulding process, thereby eliminating unnecessary joints and seams and providing maximum comfort and resultant low fatigue.

Used by the Royal Navy Diving Teams during record breaking exercises and supplied as standard equipment to the Royal Dutch Navy and others including Police Diving Teams.

A suit inflation gas bottle connection can be fitted as an optional extra.

The suit is reinforced in the knee and seat, and has reinforced boots fitted with crepe soles as an integral part.

Supplied in two standard sizes – Medium and Large.

	Personal Measurement Without Shoes	Boots	
		Length	Width
Medium	68 in. to 72 in.	11½ in.	3¾ in.
Large	72 in. to 76 in.	12 in.	3⅞ in.

Neck Seals, Cuffs and Skirts can be replaced and are supplied separately as spares, or in complete Repair Kits.

N.A.T.O. 4220-99-710-1576 (1 Jacket-Medium)
 Codification 4220-99-710-1577 (1 Trousers-Medium) } SE.
 4220-99-710-1578 (2 Jacket-Large) } 3741
 4220-99-710-1579 (2 Trousers-Large)

DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED · MARINE EQUIPMENT · G.R.G. DIVISION
 Cambridge Street, Manchester 1. Tel: CENTral 2131 · Telex: 66225 · Grams: Rubber Manchester

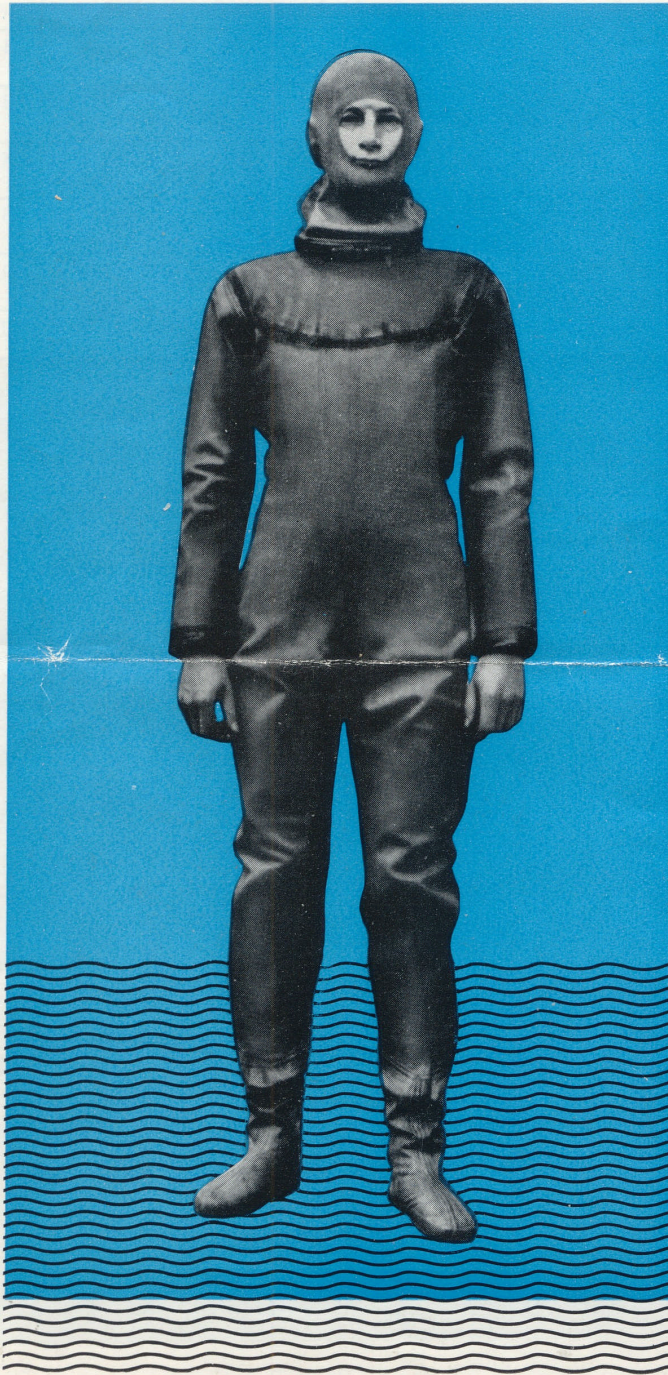
Printed in England (C.N.)

9M/12/65

Two-piece Dry Diving Dress made by the Dunlop Rubber Company's General Rubber Goods Division

DUNLOP

DRY DIVING DRESS SE.2000



Dunlop have manufactured Swimsuits in various forms since the early part of World War II and this new Suit is a direct descendant and is similar to that in current use by the Services.

The garment is a one-piece Dry Suit Style and is of the Neck entry type through a yoke of high stretch non-tear rubber.

The material has been specially developed and comprises a crimped nylon proofed with high grade rubber giving the characteristics of a two-way stretch garment with resultant advantages of low fatigue and wearer comfort. The Suit is reinforced in the knee and seat and has reinforced boots fitted with a crepe sole as an integral part.

Latex dipped Hoods, Neck Rings and Locking Bands made from non-corrosive, non-magnetic materials complete the outfit and are supplied separately.

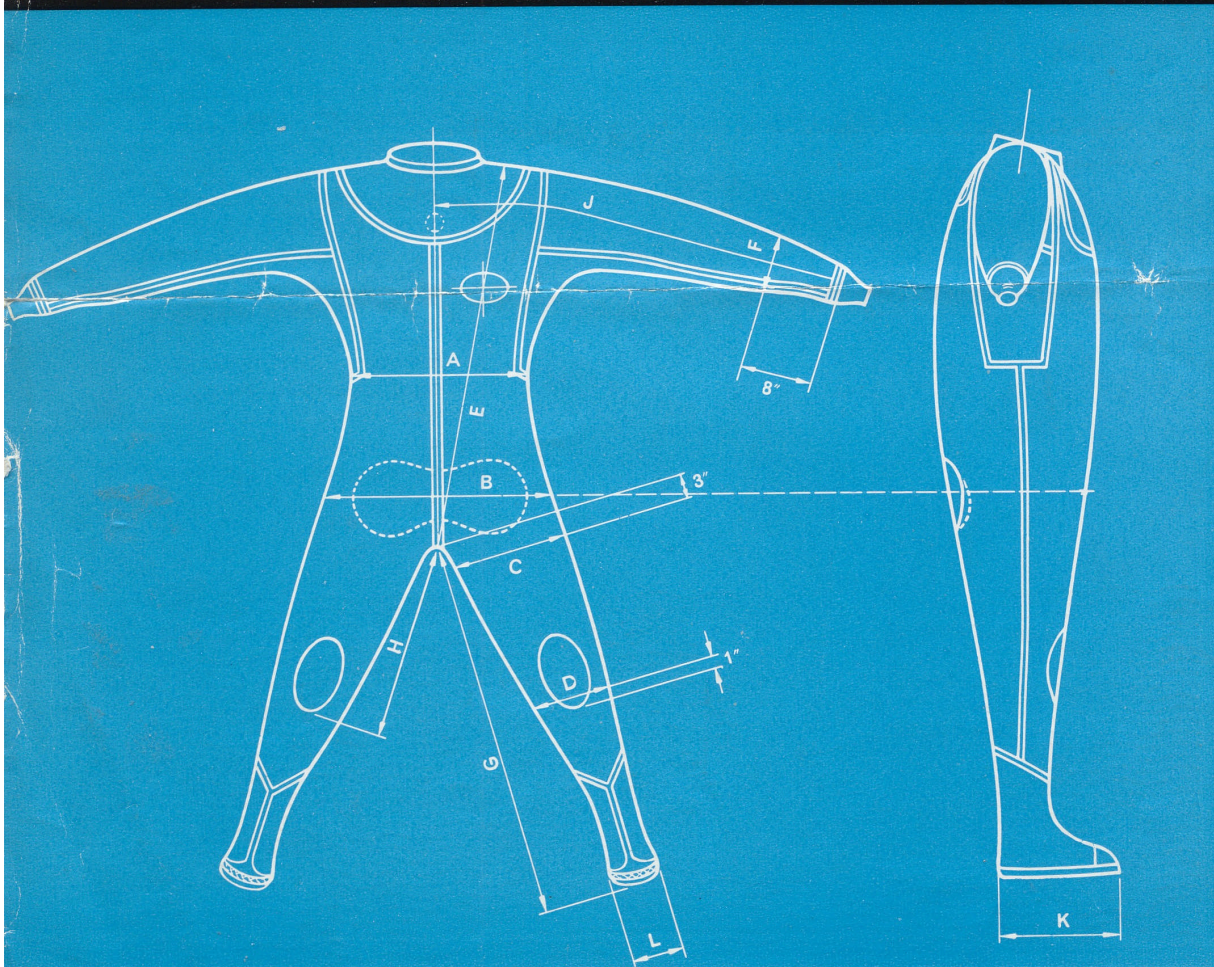
A comprehensive range of sizes has been carefully prepared to give the widest possible user choice. Details overleaf.

N.A.T.O. CODIFICATION REFERENCE 4220.99.200/1214-9 INC.

One-piece Dry Diving Dress made by the Dunlop Rubber Company's General Rubber Goods Division

SIZE CHART FOR **DUNLOP** DRY DIVING DRESS

REFERENCE No.	SIZE	MEASUREMENTS OF MAN			SUIT MEASUREMENTS INFLATED TO 4" WG. LEG AND ARM INFLATED TO 2" WG. TORSO									MEASUREMENTS OF LAST FOR BOOTS	
		HEIGHT WITHOUT SHOES INS.	WEIGHT IN UNDERCLOTHES LBS.	TAILORING—CHEST GIRTH OVER PULLOVER INS.	GIRTHS					LENGTHS				LENGTH	WIDTH
					WAIST—BOTTOM OF PIVOT INSERT INS.	HIPE—7" FROM FORK SEAM INS.	THIGH—3" BELOW FORK INS.	CALF—1" LOWER ABOUT OF KNEE PATCH—INS.	TORSO GIRTH FROM SHOULDER OVER SHOULDER TO FORK INS.	FOREARM 8" ABOVE WRIST ON WRIST SEAL JOINT	INSIDE LEG—CRUTCH TO BOTTOM OF SOLE	CRUTCH TO BOTTOM OF KNEE PATCH	SLEEVE—CENTRE BACK TO LOWER EDGE OF WRIST SEAL		
A	B	C	D	E × 2	F ± ¼"	G	H ± ½"	J	K	L					
SE.2000-1	1	64	LESS THAN 150	LESS THAN 38½	35½ 38½	39½ 42½	24 26	16 17	63 67	16	32½ 34½	16	28½ 30	11	3⅝
SE.2000-2	2	68	GREATER THAN 150	GREATER THAN 38½	40½ 43½	43½ 46½	26½ 28½	17¾ 18¾	67 71	16	32¾ 34¾	16	30 31½	11	3¾
SE.2000-3	3	68	LESS THAN 170	LESS THAN 40	37 40½	41 45	24 26	16 17¼	68 72	16	34½ 36½	17	29½ 31	11½	3¾
SE.2000-4	4	72	GREATER THAN 170	GREATER THAN 40	40 44	45 49	27½ 29½	18½ 19½	73 78	16	35 37	17	31 32¾	11½	3⅞
SE.2000-5	5	72	LESS THAN 190	LESS THAN 41½	37 41	44 47	26½ 28½	17 18	70 75	16	37½ 39½	19	32½ 34	12	3⅞
SE.2000-6	6	76	GREATER THAN 190	GREATER THAN 41½	41 45	48 51½	30 32	18¾ 19¾	77 82	16	38 40	19	33½ 35	12	4



**DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED · GENERAL RUBBER GOODS DIVISION
MARINE EQUIPMENT**

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3M/2/65



It's new from Dunlop!
THE AQUAFORT WET SUIT

THIS NEW AQUAFORT FOAM NEOPRENE SUIT BY DUNLOP HAS EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED IN AN UNDERWATER SUIT. CHECK FOR YOURSELF:—

Greater comfort at depth. No trapped air. Less feeling of pressure.

Greater freedom of movement. Soft flexible foam Neoprene allows easy, unhampered movement.

Durable but easily repairable.

Easy to put on and take off. Two-piece construction.

Easily visible. Made in yellow for maximum visibility underwater.

Wonderful value. Only £15 buys the Aquafort 'Wet' Suit.

Dunlop also make a comprehensive range of Dry Suits and accessories.



DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY LTD., ALLINGTON HOUSE, 136-142 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1
SO C7

A high visibility yellow wet suit in Dunlop Sports Company's Aquafort range of underwater equipment



The fish insignia in the image above can also be seen on the yellow wetsuit that was once part of the Dunlop Aquafort range.

Subacquea Ieri e Oggi di Stefania Bisi, <http://www.sharksclub.it/storia/>



The suit above is identified in another location, since deleted, as a Dunlop Aquafort dry suit

A vintage Dunlop suit, illustrated below, appeared on eBay recently.

