# CELECTRON Marine Safety

#### Bilge Pump Activity Monitor

#### **USER HANDBOOK**







#### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Four out of five boats that sink do so at the dock. Faulty seals, corrosion, cracked or broken fittings and perished hoses are often to blame. Increased bilge pump activity is a sure sign of a developing fault, but automatic bilge pumps can hide the problem. By monitoring and recording bilge pump activity, the **Bilge Watch 8** can provide advance warning of problems in your bilges, before they become emergencies.

While the boat is **unattended**, the BW-8 constantly monitors and records the pump activations and ALARM output activations (Counts up to 999 for each Pump, Alarm and Period) for up to 8 bilge pumps. Two outputs are provided to trigger an ALARM and an ALERT, with user set delays for each pump. The maximum recording time for each period is 99 days. There are 4 periods: the current period plus 3 history periods.

When the boat is **attended**, the BW-8 continues to monitor the pumps, but the inhibit option will disable the ALARM output and the recording function, while maintaining the ALERT output - allowing the user to **exclude expected pump activity**, such as from washing down bilges or known water ingress when under way (e.g. Leaking shaft stern gland seals etc.).

Four keys are used to access all of the BW-8's functions: The two **arrow keys** are used to move between options or to alter settings - The **YES key** selects an option or accepts a setting - Pressing the **EXIT key** returns you to the previous menu option, it also switches off the alarm.

The BW-8 has a **5 second delay** before it records a pump activation, to rule out false activations, such as those caused by the boat rocking due to wave action. When more than one pump is active, the display cycles through all active pumps. If a pump stays active and exceeds its user set alarm delay then the BW-8 triggers the ALARM and ALERT outputs and records the ALARM output activation; the **Backlight**, **'AL'** and the **BELL** symbol flash. The ALARM and ALERT outputs are limited to **10 minutes**, but can stopped at any time by pressing the **EXIT key**.

Unused pump inputs can be **skipped** so that only the pumps in use will be shown on the LCD display.

If a power failure occurs, it is indicated by displaying a **BROKEN LIGHTNING FLASH** symbol to indicate that the **DAYS** count may not be accurate. This is recorded with the history period information for future reference. The BW-8 will automatically recover from a power failure.

Recorded information can be accessed from the **DISPLAY** option in the main menu, the display will alternate between pump activations and ALARM output activations and will cycle through the pumps in use automatically (the arrow keys can override the automatic cycle). The pumps history periods can also be accessed from the **DISPLAY** option.

To conserve power, the display backlight (brightness is user selectable) is normally **OFF** until a key is pressed. It will extinguish **2 minutes** after the last key press.

Activations and settings are stored securely in non-volatile memory.

# SYSTEM OVERVIEW INSIDE FRONT COVER INSTALLATION 2 USER GUIDE 7 SETTINGS AND OPTIONS ACCESSING THE MAIN MENU 8 DIM LEVEL 9

TROUBLESHOOTING WARRANTY SPECIFICATIONS

MEMORY - CLEAR ALL

SETUP OPTION SKIP PUMP

SET ALARM DELAY TEST ALARM

**USING THE BW-8** 

MEMORY - STORE CURRENT

DISPLAY - VIEW CURRENT PERIOD

DISPLAY - VIEW HISTORY PERIODS
ADDITIONAL DISPLAYED INFORMATION

**GETTING THE MOST FROM THE BW-8** 

INSIDE BACK COVER INSIDE BACK COVER OUTSIDE BACK COVER

10

11 12

13 14

15

16 17

18

19

PACKING LIST: BW-8 control unit

Wiring loom & insulation sleeves

Cable ties, 3 Threaded studs, 3 Knurled nuts Wire clamp with 4 #2 pan head self-tapping screws

Drilling template Quick reference card

**ALERT OPTION:** Buzzer for ALERT (AT) connection -

suitable devices are available from Radio Shack or Maplin. Device specifications :12 or 24v to suit the boats

system and max total current available 50mA.

REQUIRED TOOLS: Electric Drill

Drill bit set including 4mm & 9.5mm (5/32" & 3/8")

Wire strippers/cutters

Adhesive tape (to hold the template in place)

Deburring bit for holes #0 cross point screwdriver

USE EYE PROTECTION WHILE DRILLING

First, **isolate the power to the bilge pump circuits**. **CAUTION**: It is not unusual to find bilge pumps wired directly to the battery via an in line fuse, bypassing the battery master switch and giving a permanent supply to the pumps. In this case, remove the fuses to isolate the power. Check before proceeding and be certain that the **supply to the pump switches is OFF!** 

If you are in any doubt, have a qualified electrician perform the electrical installation.

Bearing in mind, the optimum viewing angle for the LCD display: from face on, to 30° below vertical and 30° either side of horizontal, select a suitable position that has access to the rear for the fixing screws and wires.

As the BW-8 is not a primary instrument, there is no requirement for it to be waterproof, therefore, it should be mounted in a sheltered, dry location in the cabin/wheelhouse, within approximately 550mm/22" of the bilge pump auto/manual switches.

Check behind the chosen position to make sure it is clear of obstructions such as wiring looms etc. Tape the drilling template in place and following the instructions, drill the required holes and deburr. **Ensure that any metal drill particles are not allowed to drop on other electrical components in and around the mounting position**.

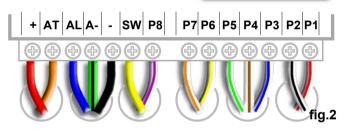
Screw the three fixing studs (finger tight) into the threaded inserts on the back of the BW-8. Mount the BW-8 into the previously drilled holes and secure by fitting the knurled nuts to the studs, finger tight (do not use excessive force). See fig.1.

Remove the terminal access cover by undoing the single screw on the front of the case. Do not fit a stud to this hole fig.1

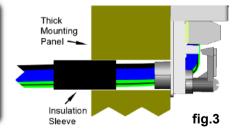
The BW-8 is supplied with individually colour coded wires fitted with "Piggy Back" 1/4" spade (Faston) connectors, (the most common type of connector used on bilge pump switches).

The wires may be cut to length to suit the installation.

From the rear of the panel, bring the wires, grouped together as shown in **fig.2**, through the cable holes.



If mounting on a panel thicker than 5mm, use the heatshrink insulation sleeves to protect the wire groups at the rear of the panel; secure in position by shrinking or with insulating tape. See fig.3.



Use only enough pump sensor wires to suit the number of pumps on your boat, start with terminal "P1" and use the terminal numbers in sequence, omitting the higher numbers if you wish to use less than 8 pumps.

First, connect the "Piggy Back" terminal end of the **BLACK** wire to a convenient negative point in the boats electrical system (see **fig.4**). Then strip 4mm of insulation from the bare end and connect this to the "-" terminal on the BW-8 terminal block, ensuring that all of the strands enter the terminal hole with no stray strands exposed. Do not use excessive force to tighten the terminal screws (Max torque 2Kg.cm / 2 in.lbs).

Locate the "MANUAL" terminal on each of your bilge pump switches and follow the connection instructions and diagram in fig.4. Strip the bare end and connect to the corresponding terminal on the BW-8 block. Repeat for each of the bilge pumps.

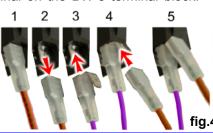
If your switches have a different method of connecting, remove the spade/ Faston connectors and fit the wires in a manner to suit your boat's system. The basic intention is to connect the sensor wires from the BW-8 to the corresponding "MANUAL" terminal on each of the pump switches, along with the existing wires from the bilge pumps/float switches.

Now, locate the positive supply terminal on one of the bilge pump switches (usually the centre terminal) and connect the "Piggy Back" connector end of the **RED** wire to it. Next strip 4mm of insulation from the bare end and connect this to the "+" terminal on the BW-8 terminal block.

FITTING THE ALERT OPTION: If your buzzer does not have 1/4" spades, remove the Faston connectors from the ORANGE & GREEN/BLACK STRIPE wires & use a suitable method to make the connections. Find a location for the buzzer. Connect the Faston connector end of the ORANGE wire to the positive terminal of the buzzer, connect the bare end to the "AT" terminal on the BW-8 terminal block. Connect the Faston connector end of the GREEN/BLACK STRIPE wire to the negative terminal of the buzzer, connect the bare end to the "A-" terminal on the BW-8 terminal block. Maximum current is 50mA.

#### Using the "Piggy Back" connectors.

- 1. Locate correct terminal for connection.
- 2. Remove wire connector from terminal.
- 3. Fit "Piggy Back" connector to terminal.
- 4. Reconnect existing wire to "Piggy Back"
- 5. Completed terminal connections.



The "AL" terminal provides a 10 minute ALARM output (switched positive, 50mA max). This can be connected to the boat's main alarm or a GSM communicator. If you require the ALARM output option connect the **BLUE** wire to the selected device. Connect the other end of the **BLUE** wire to the "AL" terminal on the BW-8 terminal block.

The inhibit option stops the recording of pump activations and disables the ALARM output, while still allowing the ALERT output to function.

If the inhibit option is not used, or if the inhibit wire is connected, but power **is not** applied to it, an alarm activation will trigger both the ALERT and ALARM outputs. If the inhibit wire is connected and power **is** applied to it, an alarm activation will trigger only the ALERT output.

The inhibit function works by applying +12/24 Volts DC to the "**SW**" terminal of the BW-8. Depending on the users requirements, there are several ways to use this option:-

If you want to stop recording pump activity while the boat is under way (e.g. to avoid known bilge pump operation caused by leaking shaft stern gland seals), connect the inhibit wire to the engine ignition accessory terminal or to another circuit that is only live when the boat is under way.

If bilge pump operation is caused by frequent washing down of the bilges, you should consider connecting the inhibit wire to a circuit such as a lighting circuit in the bilge area.

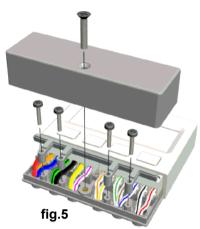
If you want to inhibit the recording function and ALARM output during the day, but need to restore full operation at night, especially the ALARM output (e.g. you cruise in daylight, sleep on board at night), then connect the **YELLOW** wire to a circuit that is normally on during the day, but always turned off at night (engine ignition accessory, saloon lighting, radio or navigation circuits may suit).

Do not connect the inhibit wire to a switch that may be left on inadvertently while the boat is unattended.

The inhibit wire should be protected with a fuse/breaker of no more than **6 Amp**, otherwise, fit an in line fuseholder with a fuse of any rating between **0.1 and 5 amp**. Connect the other end of the **YELLOW** wire to the "**SW**" terminal on BW-8 terminal block.

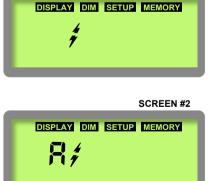
Finish off by tidying the wires into a loom/ harness with the cable ties provided, additional support for the wiring harness may be required on some installations. Fit the wire grip with the four #2 pan head self-tapping screws provided, being careful not to over tighten them. Replace the terminal cover, see fig.5. The installation is now complete. It would be a good idea at this point to check all of the wiring and connections before restoring power to the system.

The following pages will tell you how to set up the BW-8 to suit your application.



On initial power up, the LCD screen will show the full character display for 2 seconds, then changes to one of the menu screens shown below. Screen #1 will be shown if the inhibit option is not used or not powered; Screen #2 shows if the inhibit option is powered. The backlight is illuminated.

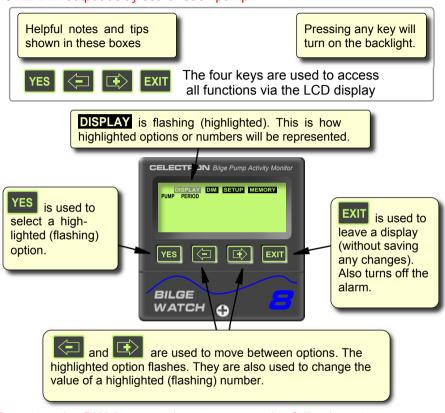




SCREEN #1

#### **USING THE GUIDE**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Manually switching the bilge pumps on, will register on the BW-8 and may trigger the ALARM and ALERT outputs, depending on the ALARM output delay set for each pump.



#### To set up the BW-8 to your boat carry out the following steps:

1. ACCESSING THE MAIN MENU	page	8
2. Set DIM LEVEL (back-light brightness)	page	9
3. MEMORY - CLEAR ALL (clear power fail flag)	page	10
4. SKIP PUMP (skip unused pumps)	pages	12 & 13
5. SET ALARM DELAY (for each pump)	pages	12 & 14
6. TEST ALARM (tests ALARM and ALERT output	)pages	12 & 15

One of the following displays will be shown (pump activity will add additional digits and symbols):





#### Display symbols:

#### DISPLAY DIM SETUP MEMORY

These are the four main menu options.



Power fail flag - a break in the power supply has occurred.



Attended mode inhihit is on



Bell symbol various functions

Press YES

In **main menu**, with the DISPLAY option highlighted (flashing)



Power fail flag not shown here, but it will be added to most displays following a power up or power failure.



Press or until the required main menu option is highlighted.

Press YES to select the highlighted option.

Follow the instructions on this page to adjust the backlight brightness.

First access the main menu.



**PRESS** 

#### **Highlight DIM option**



#### Select DIM option

In ALL DISPLAYS, EXIT is used to go back.

# PRESS YES EXIT

### Change DIM level 1-8 (8 is maximum brightness)

Pressing EXIT now would exit without saving the altered dim setting.

PRESS YES EXIT



#### Set new DIM level

Display returns to main menu options.

**PRESS** 

This clears the current plus the 3 history period memories. Also clears the power fail flag.

First highlight the MEMORY option in the main menu

#### Select MEMORY option

WARNING! Be careful when using this option, you could accidentally wipe out all of your recorded information.

#### Highlight CLEAR ALL

#### Select CLEAR ALL

After confirming CLEAR ALL, the display will return to the MAIN MENU - DISPLAY option.

#### Confirm CLEAR ALL





**PRESS** 

**PRESS** 









The information stored in periods 1,2 & 3 moves to 2,3 & 4. The information that was stored in period 4 is discarded. Period 1 (current period) is now clear, ready to begin a new period.

PERIODS 2,3, and 4 are history periods, PERIOD 4 being the oldest.

First highlight the MEMORY option in the main menu

Select MEMORY option (STORE CURRENT will be highlighted)

## DISPLAY DIM SETUP MEMORY STORE CURRENT CLEAR ALL

**PRESS** MEMORY STORE CURRENT CLEAR ALL

#### Select STORE CURRENT

After confirming STORE CURRENT, the display will return to the MAIN MENU -DISPLAY option.

Confirm STORE CURRENT



**PRESS** 









The SETUP option in the main menu has three sub-options. This page shows how to access these.

First highlight SETUP in the main menu

Select SETUP option

SKIP DISPLAY DIM SETUP MEMORY PUMP

TEST ALARM SET ALARM DELAY

**PRESS** 





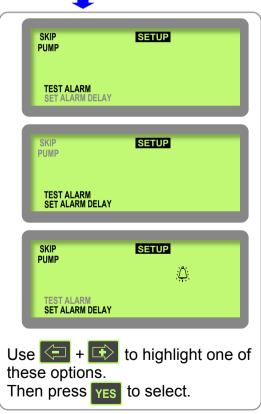




SET ALARM DELAY

SKIP PUMP

**TEST ALARM** 



The following pages describe how to use the three options.

Use this option to skip unused pumps.

First highlight SKIP PUMP in the SETUP sub-options

#### Select SKIP PUMP

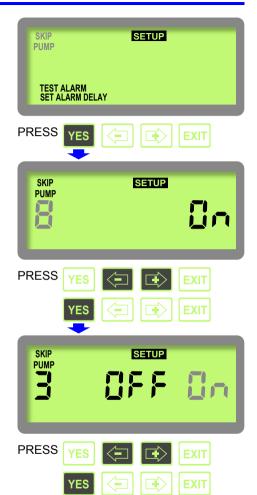
SKIP PUMP starts with PUMP 8. Skip the highest numbers first. PUMP 1 cannot be skipped.

#### Change pump number

#### Select pump

Use this menu sub-option to reinstate a pump.

### Highlight pump ON or OFF Confirm setting



A pump set to OFF will not show in displays other than SKIP PUMP.

Use this option to set the alarm output delay for each pump.
On entering the SETUP menu, SET ALARM DELAY is highlighted



Select SET ALARM DELAY



#### Change pump number

#### Select pump

If a pump is active when its alarm delay is set, the activation is regarded as a new activation with the new alarm delay applied.

# PUMP SET ALARM DELAY MINUTES

#### Change alarm delay

#### Confirm setting

PRESS

**PRESS** 

















ALARM DELAY SETTINGS 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,15,20,30,60 minutes, or OFF 0 = ALARM OUTPUT WITHOUT DELAY

OFF = NO ALARM OUTPUT

Use this option to test the alarm output.

First, highlight TEST ALARM in the SETUP sub-options

#### Select TEST ALARM

If INHIBIT is on, only the ALERT output will be activated during TEST ALARM.

# PRESS YES EXIT SETUP TEST ALARM BACKLIGHT FLASHING

SETUP

#### **END TEST**

The ALARM & ALERT outputs are limited to 10 minutes duration, or until EXIT is pressed.

PRESS

SKIP

**PUMP** 

TEST ALARM
SET ALARM DELAY

If an ALARM output trigger occurs and **EXIT** is pressed to stop the ALARM output, all keys are disabled for a few seconds - this stops accidental clearing of the ALARM output information on the display.

If the ALARM output is triggered while the user is accessing the BW-8, the unit automatically jumps to the ALARM output information display. After acknowledging the ALARM output notification (see page 18), the user may manually return to the menu option that they were accessing.

Use this option to view the recorded data

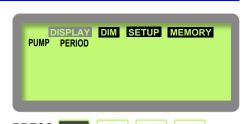
First, go to the main menu -DISPLAY is highlighted.

#### Select DISPLAY option

The BW-8 will automatically sequence through the PUMPS. While PUMP is highlighted, pressing a or will manually change pump.

#### Manually change pump

While cycling through the pumps, activations are shown first, then the pump ALARM output activations (if any). DAYS is the current period length.















Use this option to view the history periods for a pump.

First, in DISPLAY - VIEW CURRENT PERIOD, manually change the pump number, or wait until the required pump is displayed.

# PUMP PERIOD PUMP ACTIVITY DAYS

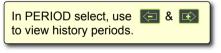
#### To manually change pump

While PUMP is highlighted, pressing ves will move to the PERIOD select option of the display for the pump number shown on screen.





#### Go to PERIOD select







#### Change period number

When comparing pump activity in history periods, also take into account the length of the periods (DAYS count).

PRESS YES EXIT



#### Go back to pump select

If no key is pressed for 2 minutes, the backlight turns off to conserve power. The main menu options are displayed. The 'A' for attended (inhibit on) and the power fail flag may also be shown.





If a key is pressed, the back-light switches on.

If a pump becomes active, the backlight switches on and the display changes to:-

The pump number, 'On' and pump run time are displayed. Active pumps are shown in sequence. A \(\tilde{\Omega}\) is displayed if the activation caused an ALARM output activation.

If a pump triggers the ALARM output, the display will show the pump number, pump run time and a flashing 'AL', \( \tilde{

If ALARM output triggers occur while you are absent from your boat, the last ALARM output notification stays on the display until you return and acknowledge it.





BACKLIGHT FLASHING



Press YES twice to turn on the backlight and acknowledge & clear an ALARM output notification. The BW-8 returns to the main menu.

#### **GETTING THE MOST FROM THE BW-8**

#### Using the ALARM output delay setting:

An ALARM output delay can be set for each pump:- "OFF" (no ALARM output trigger), "ON - 00" (instant ALARM output trigger) or "ON" + a delay time of:- 1 to 10, 15, 20, 30 or 60 minutes. Set the delay time to suit your boats specific requirements and safety needs. If your boat is normally dry, low delay settings will suffice. If you have an area of the bilges which has a known acceptable water intake, set the delay for the pump that serves that area so as to avoid false alarms.

#### How to interpret the data:

The BW-8 will show the complete log of pump and ALARM output activity for the current period. By comparing the number of pump activations and ALARM output activations with previous periods, taking into account the length (DAYS count) of the periods being compared, increased activity trends can be detected. It is recommended that you store the current data and start a new period at regular intervals, from one week to three months.

#### When the boat is attended:

If required, the inhibit option can be used to disable the <u>recording</u> of activations and ALARM outputs; the ALERT output will still be active.

If a pump becomes active, the backlight will illuminate. The active pumps are displayed in sequence with the run time for each shown in minutes. Getting a feel for each pumps activity pattern under different boat operating conditions, will give an early warning of developing problems. Watch out for extended run-times or increased activity - either could be a sign of a worsening leak. Remember, if the inhibit option is activated, the BW-8 will display, but not record pump activations.

**TOTAL SYSTEM RESET:** To restore the BW-8 to its factory settings and clear all its memory - disconnect power then hold down all keys while reconnecting power. Release keys after 3 seconds.

**ERROR MÉSSAGES:** If the BW-8 displays an 'E' letter and a number, an error has occurred. The BW-8 will automatically attempt to clear the fault. If the error message does not clear, disconnect power to the unit. Check the power supply integrity and voltage level (12-24v). Restore power while carrying out a TOTAL SYSTEM RESET (see above). If the error message persists, contact your dealer.

#### **GETTING THE MOST FROM THE BW-8**

#### **Example scenario:**

Your boat is moored at a marina and during the winter, you check on it about once a month. On each visit, the BW-8 shows that the engine compartment bilge pump has operated once or twice for a short period, not enough to set off an alarm. The boat has twin shafts and you assume the bilge pump activity is due to the stern glands. The fact that the recorded activity is consistent and minimal is reassurance that the leak is not worsening. The rest of the boat is dry.

On the first visit during spring, you find that pump 4 in the forward head has operated once. *Unusual*, you think. **But you assume that some rainwater from a recent storm had found its way in.** *You ignore it*.

On the next visit the BW-8 shows that pump 4 has been on twice. Again you come up with a logical explanation (after all, the forward compartment is awkward to access). *Again, you ignore it.* 

On the following visit, the BW-8 shows that pump 4 has operated 5 times. Now, you have **real concerns** and no justifiable excuses. You must check it out. Inspection reveals that a skin fitting is weeping a steady trickle of water into the bilges! You organise a lift out with the marina.

While replacing the skin fitting you notice that the 1/4" (6mm) bolts have eroded to about half their original size and you realise that before long the weep would have become a torrent when the fitting came off completely leaving a 2" (50mm) hole, 2 feet (600mm) below the water line. That is close to 3500 gallons (15000 litres) per hour of water coming on board; assuming a 500 gph pump (ignoring any depreciation for head), that's seven gallons in for every gallon that the pump can get out!

The reason for the eroded bolts? Yes the sacrificial anodes should have been replaced last season! (For eroded bolts try substituting, Perished hoses/caulking, cracked skin fittings/hulls, badly fitting hatches etc, etc.)

#### JUST AS WELL YOU FITTED THE BW-8

If the BW-8 Bilge Pump Activity Monitor warns you of a problem that saves your boat from sinking, please visit our website and send us an E-mail describing the circumstances.

By publishing this information on our website, other boat owners may benefit from your experience.

#### **TROUBLESHOOTING**

One of the pumps is not showing on the display. The pump has been skipped. Go to SETUP - SKIP and set the pump to 'ON'.

The unit displays, but does not record activations. The INHIBIT connection is enabled. Disable INHIBIT.

One pump does not trigger an alarm. Check its alarm output delay is set correctly. If set to 'OFF', it will not trigger the alarm output.

How do I clear the power fail icon? Once a power fail occurs, it is recorded with the current period. See page 10 (CLEAR ALL) & 11 (STORE CURRENT).

In DISPLAY MODE, the pump number increases without me pressing a key. For ease of use, the BW-8 automatically sequences through the pumps in DISPLAY, but the arrow keys can also be used to manually step through the pumps.

The display is showing an alarm output notification but I know there is more than one pump active. Why isn't the unit showing all the active pumps in turn?

Acknowledge the alarm output notification by pressing the YES key (to enter MAIN MENU). Press EXIT and the BW-8 will cycle through all active pumps.

One pump keeps setting off the alarm but I know about the leak that is causing it and I am not concerned. Increase the alarm output delay time to a more acceptable.

A pump, that I know is running, is not shown as active. It is not skipped. The pump must run uninterrupted for 5 seconds for the instrument to recognise the activation as valid. If the pump runs longer and is still not shown, check the wiring connection.

#### WARRANTY

Celectron Ltd. warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 12 months. Warranty claims should be made through the original retailer.

The warranty does not cover damage caused by: misuse; improper installation or accidental damage.

Celectron Ltd.'s liability for any warranty claim will be limited to the replacement of the product.

This guarantee does not limit the purchaser's consumer rights. If the local law does not state anything to the contrary, the rights of the purchaser are limited to this guarantee.



### CELECTRON

### **Marine Safety**

#### BILGE WATCH BW-8 BILGE PUMP ACTIVITY MONITOR

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

Monitors 1 to 8 Pumps

Skip unused pump user option

1 to 99 Day (3 month), user selectable data period, (store up to a full years data)

Records up to 999 pump activations and alarm outputs for each pump

5 Second delay before pump activation is recorded (eliminates false readings due to rocking motion caused by waves)

Records activations and alarm outputs for the current period plus 3 history periods User selectable alarm output delay time for each pump (0-60 minutes / OFF)

10 Minute alarm output timer

Alarm output indication with pump run time displayed

Illuminated display and keys with user set brightness (Dim)

Inhibit function disables data recording and alarm output (alert remains active)

Display automatically cycles through active pumps showing pump run time

Power fail indicator recorded with period

User settings and data stored in non-volatile memory

12-24V DC Operation

Power consumption: Monitoring 3mA 12-24V Max (alarm on) 160mA 12-24V

Alert output: Switched positive output 12/24V (+) 50mA max

Alarm output: Switched positive output 12/24V (+) 50mA max

**Control unit:** 

Sheltered use only

Dimensions & Weight: - 80x80x23mm, 0.4Kg

Height above panel: - 18mm

Installation Kit:

14 wires, 16AWG, 600mm/24", with piggy-back Faston connectors

**Drilling template** 

Hardware: Fasteners, Cable Ties & Wire Sleeving

*BILGE* WATCH

