

The Dracone Barge



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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 Main Towing Ropes | 5 Nose Cone | 9 Stabiliser |
| 2 Towing Pendant | 6 Nose Cone Pump Spool Piece | 10 Mooring Ring |
| 3 Recovery Bend | 7 Mooring Ring | 11 Tow Line |
| 4 Towing Hose | 8 Dracone Barge | 12 Light Float with Navigation Light |

Dunlop GRG Holdings Limited has been producing the Dracone Barge or Tower Flexible Barge (TFB) on a commercial basis for almost forty (40) years. This unique towed flexible barge was originally conceived in 1956 at Cambridge University and developed and refined over the next ten years. The Dracone Barge consequently possesses an unrivalled record from working experiences and technology.

Initially, the Dracone Barge was used for military purposes involving the transportation of bulk water or refined fuels. Commercial applications quickly followed and today the key functions of the Dracone is an essential part of oil pollution control operations, grey and black water removal as well as its prime military role of fuel movement.

The ability of the Dracone Barge to meet operational requirements is confirmed without doubt by the numerous examples of use in all climates and sea conditions.

If maintained in accordance with the Dunlop GRG manual, the Dracones will give a long service life demonstrating fully that the Dunlop GRG Dracone Barge is fit for purpose in the marine environment. An example of this exceptional performance is the use of 25 year old type 'L' barges (441 cu. Metres capacity) by our client, the US Navy. The barges were used to take delivery of fuel from a stricken US Naval vessel off the coast of Chile and then towed several hundred miles to a disposal point.





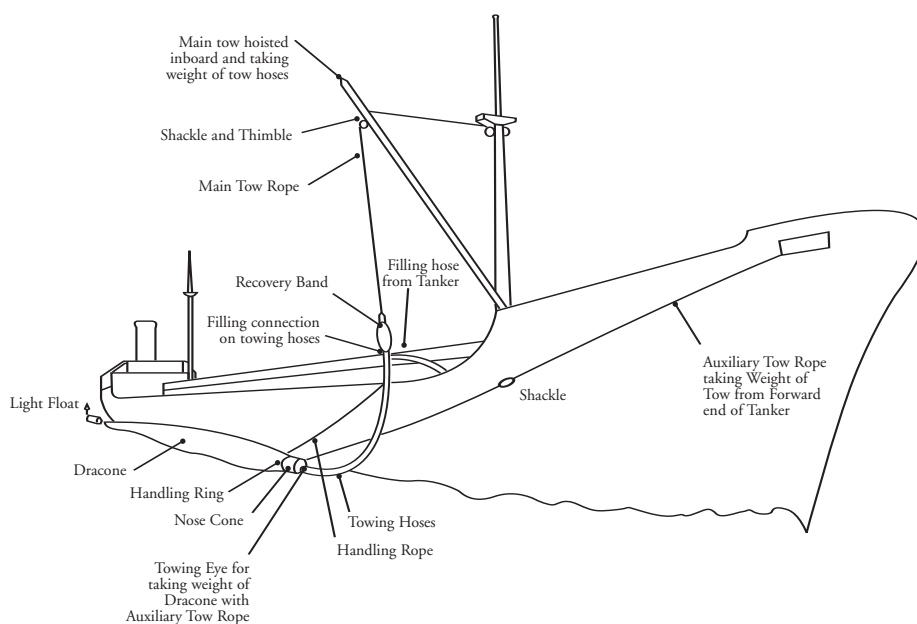
TRELLEBORG

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It is important to recognise that the current Dracone product has been achieved by a combination of theoretical analysis and practical experience of early designs and operations. Manufactured from the highest quality rubber coated textiles several sizes are available as standard and are shown on the table below.

		DRACONE TYPE								
		A1	A2	D5	D10	E	F	J	L	O
Capacity	m³	3,90	7.80	19.30	38.60	85.00	162.00	327.25	441.00	935.00
Length	m	8.58	14.17	15.95	31.45	38.45	50.45	66.00	66.00	91.45
Diameter	m	0.94	0.94	1.42	1.42	1.87	2.35	2.82	3.28	4.23
Empty Weight	kg	270	310	430	780	1000	2275	3540	4060	6500

The Dracone has a length to diameter ratio of approximately 20:1 and consists of a moulded tapered nose section shaped to minimise drag and which uniformly distributes towing forces to the attached cylindrical body. At the other end is attached a moulded, hemispherical tail section shaped such that internal pressure waves are reflected or dissipated. The Dracone has integral non-inflatable buoyancy such that it will remain afloat either empty or filled with a cargo up to a specific gravity of 1.02. A stabiliser skirt assembly is attached at the tail end to ensure directional stability when the barge is under tow. The Dracones give a high degree of serviceability and possess an unrivalled record of reliability.



The normal planned life for a Dracone supplied to the UK MoD is 10 years. However, there are examples of Dracones that achieve a service life of 25 years or more with the US Navy. The Dracone has been operated and stored without problems in all types of climatic conditions and operating temperatures. All accessories and discharge system available on request.



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