

Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA)

www.prcainfo.org

Technical Advisory – PETZL Safety Information – Connecting to Harness with Locking Carabiners

PRCA Safety Alert / Technical Advisory Committee: - TA – PETZL 2007

The purpose of the PRCA safety alerts and technical advisories is to disseminate current and recently acquired information to the industry which will aid in the prevention of accidents on ropes courses. Where possible the PRCA will provide unbiased information related to the sequence of events, materials involved and root causes of accidents or near misses. When possible the PRCA Safety Alert / Technical Advisory Committee will make appropriate contacts as necessary but the committee does not intend to perform in depth investigations into incidents, we rely upon the information provided by our members, members of the industry and other industry associations, such as the European Ropes Course Association.

Please forward any questions or comments about this safety alert / technical advisory to info@prcainfo.org

Petzl Information Connecting to harness with locking carabiners - Technical Advisory

In 2008 the Ropes Listserv had a running discussion regarding the current harness attachment requirements when utilizing triple auto locking carabiners when attaching a harness into top rope and /or self-belay systems such as utilized in the ropes course industry. The PRCA contacted Petzl as the manufacturer of the carabiner being discussed and was provided with the following information and a copy of an original Petzl information notice.

Manufacturer's specification:

- Two locking carabiners with gates opposed and locked, will be utilized to attach a belay rope to a climber's seat harness. "never use a single carabiner".
- Attachment on the harness will be to the belay attachment component designated by the harness manufacturer.
- The method of attachment described above is also used to attach self-belay lanyards to the harness.

north american distribution

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Dear Valued Customer

Please read carefully and take note of the following:

The best method to attach a belay rope to a climbing harness is to tie the rope directly to the harness using a rethreaded figure 8 knot. However, Petzl understands that from a practical perspective, there are times when locking carabiners may be used as a more expedient means of attachment, especially in commercial climbing operations.

When locking carabiners are used to attach a belay rope to a climber's seat harness, it is very important to remember that:

- Two (2) locking carabiners **must** be used as shown in Fig. 1 with gates opposed and locked; **never** use a single carabiner to attach a belay rope to a harness.
- The 2-carabiner attachment method may be used **only for top rope climbing**, with no slack in the rope. For lead climbing, the rope **must** be tied directly to the harness with a rethreaded figure 8 knot as shown on the harness label, and in the instructions for use which come with each harness.

This information is found in the instructions for Petzl harnesses, available in pdf format on Petzl's website at www.petzl.com. Also available on the site is the *Carabiners Experience* brochure containing general information about Petzl carabiners and tying into the harness.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the instructions for use and other technical information that comes with every Petzl product reaches the user of the product(s). In addition, we ask that you forward the information in this letter to all of your customers who may use locking carabiners to tie into a harness as described above, especially commercial climbing operations such as gyms, mobile walls, and amusement parks.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact Petzl Customer Sales & Support (877-807-3805) with any questions.

Best regards

Hank Moon

Technical Information Manager
Petzl America

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