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BUCK
SINCE 1896

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Equipment For People
Working In High Locations

May 13, 2016

Subject: ASAP Lock Information

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is to address recent correspondence received from Petzl regarding "ASAP LOCK PPE inspection" that are on certain Buckingham products or sold as stand-alone. The correspondence received is as follows:

> *On Monday April 18, 2016 Petzl posted information regarding possible cracks in the arms of the ASAP LOCK (B71 ALU). To summarize, the cause of these cracks has yet to be determined, but they may be linked to a combination of manufacturing processes which can possibly lead to cracks appearing over time. A cracked arm presents no additional immediate risk to the user. However, as with any personal protective equipment (PPE), the presence of such a crack requires immediate retirement of the device. This information is only accessible from the ASAP LOCK product page as this information is not considered a Safety Alert, but as information regarding ASAP LOCK PPE inspection.*
> *Please review this update along with our recommendations, and contact us if you have any questions or need additional info.*

The discovery of this issue led Buckingham to create a list of products in which the Petzl ASAP LOCK is used, as well as those model numbers for stand-alone units you may have purchased (see back of this page for list of product and model numbers). Additionally attached, are Petzl documents outlining their information regarding "Information Regarding Possible Cracks On ASAP Lock" and "ASAP LOCK PPE Inspection procedure".

Refer to the attachment section 'Petzl ASAP LOCK PPE Inspection procedure' pages 1 – 5 of 5 pages regarding the required inspection procedure for these units. Once inspection is completed in accordance with these instructions, and you believe that you have a defective unit, please contact Buckingham Mfg. Co. Inc. Customer Service at (800) 937-2825 to obtain a Returned Goods Authorization number for returning the product to us for replacement at no charge.

We apologize for any inconvenience this issue may cause you and your company and assure you that Buckingham will replace those units returned as quickly as possible. As a world leader in fall protection equipment, Buckingham remains committed to providing its customers with a quality product that allows them to carry out their profession in a safe manner.

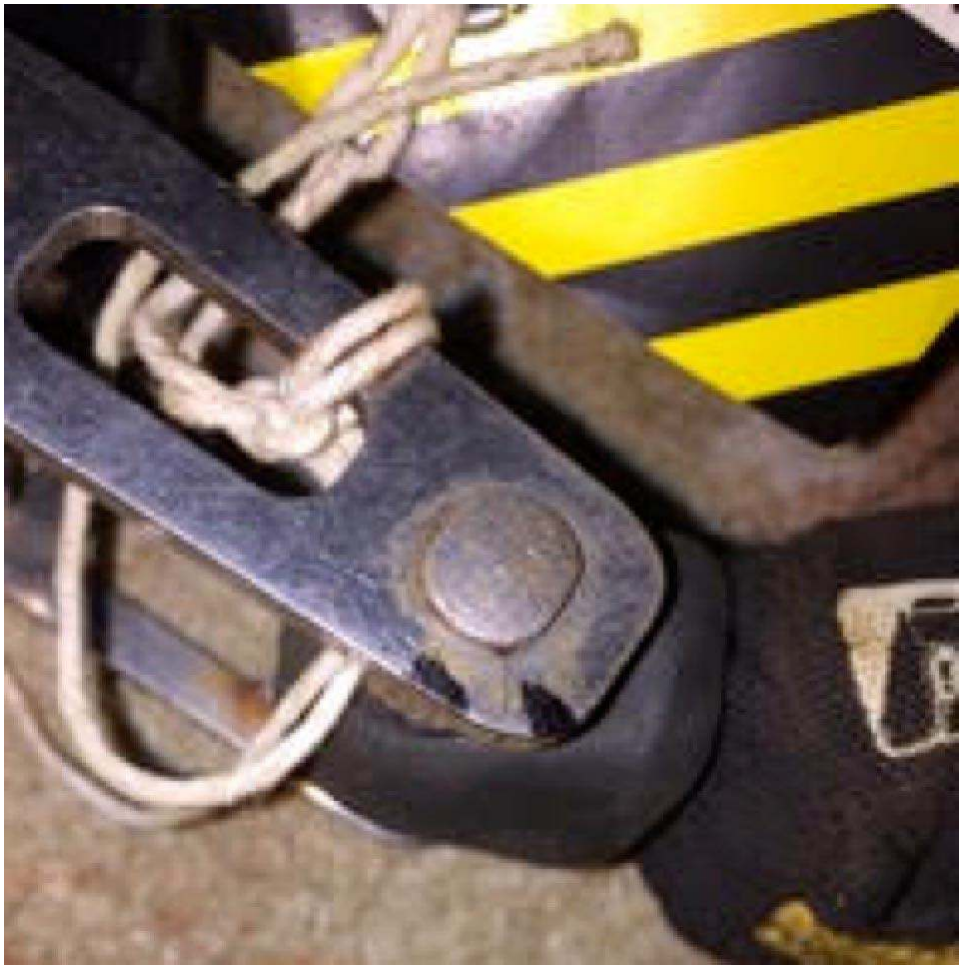
Sincerely,
Buckingham Mfg. Co., Inc.

INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE CRACKS ON ASAP LOCK

FACT: MARCH, 30 2016 - During routine equipment inspections one customer detected cracks on the stainless steel arms on three ASAP LOCK. These three defective products will be returned to Petzl for analysis.

APRIL 18 2016

ROPE ACCESS AND CONFINED SPACE



Petzl immediate actions

- We have inspected our inventory and have not found cracked ASAP LOCK arms.
- We have audited the ASAP LOCK production plant. The quality inspectors who inspect each individual ASAP LOCK before packaging have never seen this issue.
- We have begun a technical investigation to determine the cause of this exceptional event.

Risk assessment for the users

Extreme tests:

- We have intentionally cut both stainless arms at each rivet, to simulate potential cracks.

ASAP LOCK before test with multiple cuts to simulate cracks

- We performed the EN12841 test with a Petzl PARALLEL 10.5 mm rope and Petzl ASAP'SORBER.
- We performed a static tensile test with a Petzl PARALLEL 10.5 mm rope.

Dynamic Tests results:

- The fall was arrested and the mass was not released.
- The ASAP'SORBER was deployed.
- No deformation of the cuts due to the dynamic test

ASAP LOCK prototype after dynamic test

Static tensile test results:

- Rupture of the rope sheath at 7.2 KN
- Visually apparent opening of one cut but without rupture of the component or release of the load.

Conclusions:

- As described in the instruction for use, Petzl ASAP LOCK must be used with the ASAP'SORBER or the ABSORBICA L57. These two shock absorbers limit the dynamic forces to 5KN.
- In the worst case scenario, a cracked ASAP LOCK arm presents no additional risk to the user.
- However, the presence of such cracks in the arm requires immediate retirement of the ASAP LOCK.

Investigation of the causes of these cracks

- This first investigation is only based on the pictures and email we received. A complementary investigation will be conducted as soon as the three cracked ASAP LOCK are returned to Petzl.
- Because all cracks of the three defective ASAP LOCK are located around a rivet, our working hypothesis is that the cracks are the result of a combination of the riveting parameters that create a potential residual tensile stress in the stainless steel, and the heat treatment that results in this part being too rigid. In that case, the cracks will initiate always in the smaller section, and will appear over time. The gradual appearance of these cracks makes them undetectable during Petzl's final quality inspection.
- Only a very small number of units may be affected by this phenomenon. Today, only these three ASAP LOCK have been reported to us with cracks on the stainless steel arms.

Petzl corrective actions

As an immediate measure of precaution, technical modifications will be implemented on the manufacturing process of the ASAP LOCK:

- Adjustment of the riveting parameters to eliminate potential residual tensile stress in the stainless steel parts.
- Adjustment of the heat treatment parameters of the stainless steel parts to reduce rigidity of the material.

Petzl Recommendations for ASAP LOCK in service

- Regularly inspect your ASAP LOCK in accordance with the ASAP LOCK PPE checking procedure
- **A cracked arm presents no additional immediate risk to the user. However, as with any PPE, the presence of such a crack requires an immediate retirement of the product**
- In the unlikely event you find a cracked arm, retire your ASAP LOCK immediately and contact your local distributor for a replacement under warranty.
- ASAP (B71 AAA) is not concerned by these recommendations.

Future actions

- As soon as we receive the products in question, we will send them out for metallurgic analysis, in order to confirm the investigation hypothesis. We will also perform dynamic tests on the ASAP LOCK. This complementary analysis may initiate other corrective actions.
- Petzl continues to investigate the potential causes of these cracks, and will communicate its findings as soon as possible.

Petzl is committed to continuously improve its products to serve the communities with high quality tools and continue to earn the trust of its customers. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this issue may create. We commit to do our best to solve quickly this problem.

• **In addition to routine checks for each use, PPE should regularly undergo a detailed inspection by a competent person.**
Petzl recommends an inspection every 12 months and after any exceptional event in the life of the product.
• **PPE inspection should be done with the manufacturer's instructions available for reference.** Download the instructions at PETZL.COM

ASAP LOCK

1. Known product history

Any PPE showing unexpected degradation should be quarantined, pending a detailed inspection.

The user should:
- Provide precise information on the usage conditions.
- Report any exceptional event regarding his PPE.
(Examples: fall or fall arrest, use or storage at extreme temperatures, modification outside manufacturer's facilities, etc.).

2. Preliminary observations

Verify the presence and legibility of the serial number and the CE mark.
Attention, the serial number code on our products is evolving. Two types of code will coexist.
See below for details on each serial number code.

Code A:

00 000 AA 0000

Year of manufacture
Day of manufacture
Name of Inspector
Incrementation

Code B:

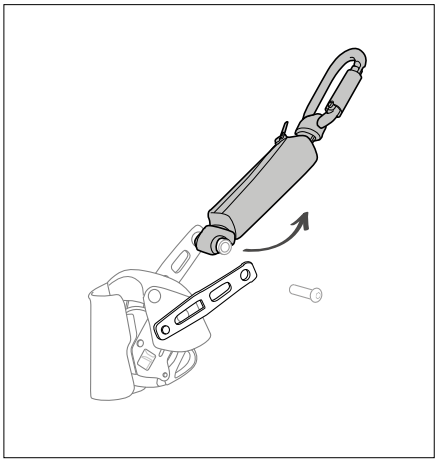
00 A 0000000 000

Year of manufacture
Month of manufacture
Batch number
Incrementation

Verify that the product lifetime has not been exceeded.
Compare with a new product to verify there are no modifications or missing parts.

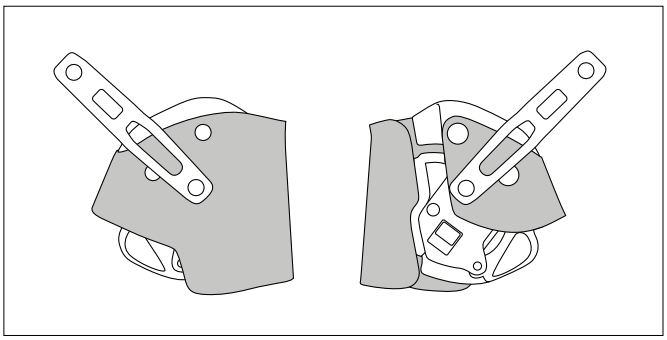
3. Preparation

• To begin inspecting your ASAP LOCK, remove the energy absorber.
The energy absorber must be inspected separately using the inspection procedure available at Petzl.com.



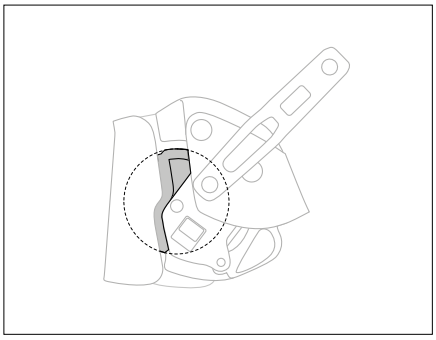
4. Inspecting the frame

• Check the condition of the frame (marks, deformation, cracks, corrosion...).

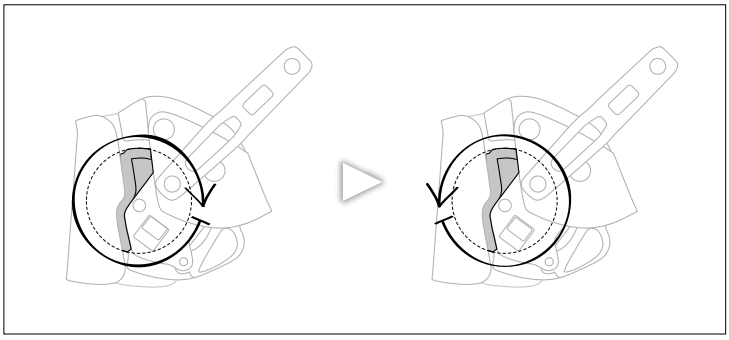


5. Inspecting the wheel

• Check the condition of the wheel (marks, deformation, cracks, corrosion...).
Check that all teeth are present and check their state of wear.
The wheel must not be fouled. If necessary, clean it with a brush, possibly by applying solvent with a fine brush. Avoid getting any liquid inside the mechanism.

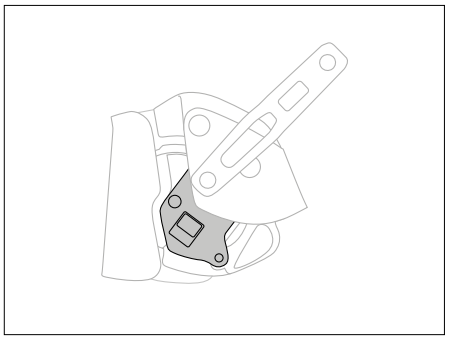


• Check the rotation of the wheel.
Turn the wheel one complete revolution in both directions, making sure it rotates smoothly, without catching.

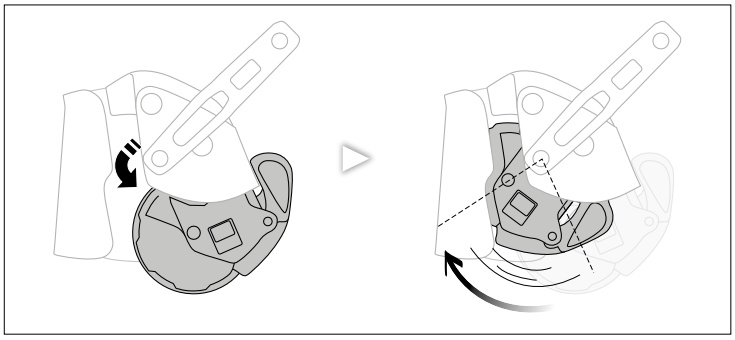


6. Inspecting the arm and the safety catches

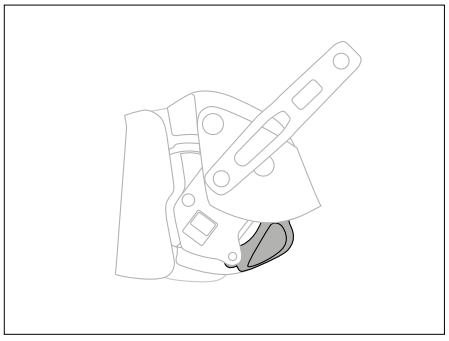
• Check the condition of the arm (marks, deformation, cracks, corrosion...).
Check that all teeth are present and check their state of wear.



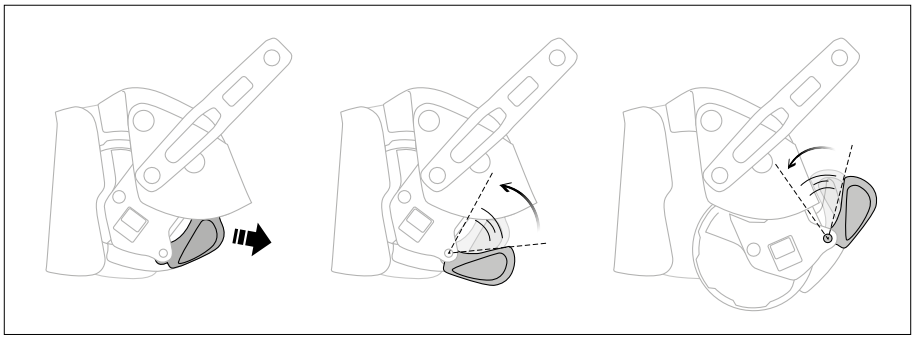
• Check the effectiveness of the arm's return spring.



• Check the condition of the safety catches (marks, deformation, cracks...).

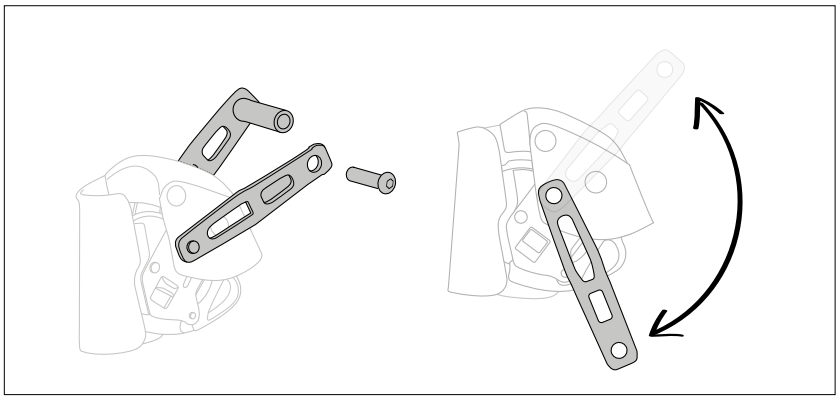


• Check the effectiveness of the return spring on each safety catch.

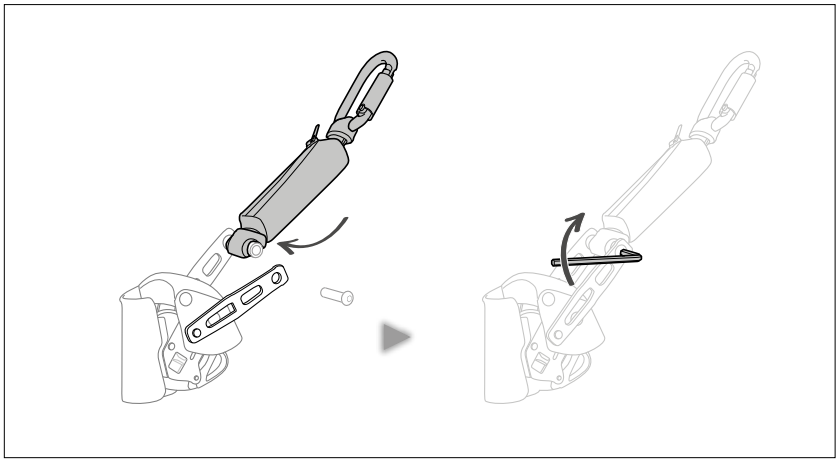


7. Checking the clevis

• Check the condition of the clevis, the connection pin and the screw (marks, deformation, cracks, corrosion) Verify that the clevis rotates on its axle.

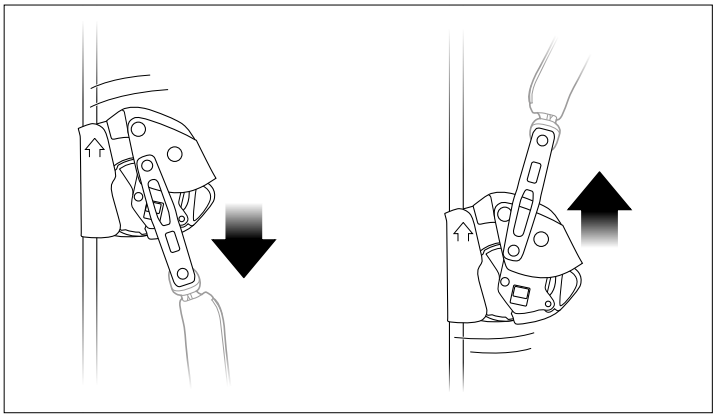


• Install the energy absorber and close the clevis. Use thread-locking fluid on the screw. Check the tightness of the screw.



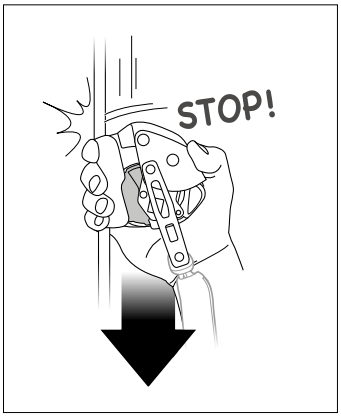
8. Function test: sliding on the rope

• Install the ASAP LOCK on a compatible rope, check that it slides properly on the rope in both directions.

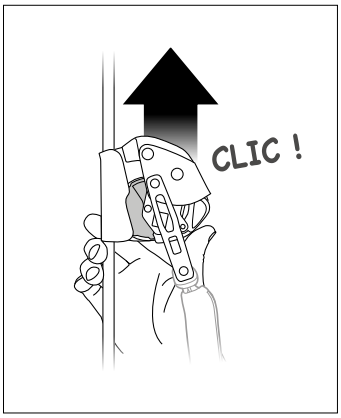


9. Function test: locking and unlocking

• Install the ASAP LOCK on a compatible rope; test for correct locking by pulling sharply downward (direction of a fall).



• After locking, verify that the device unlocks normally.



10. Function test: locking function

• Install the ASAP LOCK on a compatible rope, activate the locking button; test for correct locking by pulling downward (direction of a fall).
• Deactivate the locking button, verify that the wheel turns freely again in both directions.