



# ***Maintenance and Safety Directive***

**Reference:** Petzl Harness and Carabiner

## **Introduction:**

PETZL has recently issued a safety bulletin on carabiners in use with the seat style harness. They have outlined the correct use for rock climbing, commercial climbing, climbing in gyms, on mobile walls and amusement parks. Petzl's direction should be followed by all climbers. Spectrum Sports is mandating that the following be done immediately to prevent any possible accidents.

## **Background:**

Original directive was sent by Hank Moon, Technical Information Manager, Petzl America. Portions of the directive are quoted below.

**Subject:** IMPORTANT SAFETY BULLETIN ON CARABINERS

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 with gates opposed and locked; **Never** use a single carabiner to attach a belay rope to a harness.
- This 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 the rethreaded figure 8 knot as shown on the harness label, and in the technical notice which comes with each harness.

This information is found in Petzl harness and carabiner technical notices. Petzl technical notices are available in pdf format on Petzl's website at [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com).

It is your responsibility to ensure that the 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.

Hank Moon  
Technical Information Manager  
Petzl America

### **SSI Action:**

Regardless of ownership we have taken steps to inform state inspectors and/or new or old operator/owners of any of our climbing wall types of the following mandated actions:

1. **NEW SPECTRUM POLICY:** When using the Petzl seat style harness all stationary or mobile climbing walls using Auto-Belays shall have a Swivel on each belay cable that will accommodate two (2) carabiners. Two (2) locking carabiners shall be used on belay cables with gates opposed and locked into the Petzl climbers harness; **Never** use a single carabiner to attach a belay rope or cable to a Petzl seat style harness.
2. **MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY DIRECTIVE:** M&SD-1002, **Reference:** Petzl Harness and Carabiners has been developed and will be sent to all of SSI's customer/Spectrum wall owners.
3. **ADDITIONAL CARABINER:** Carabiners may be obtained from SSI immediately (1-435-792-3883).
4. Spectrum shall notify all wall owners, operators, and governmental agency by this directive.

### **OWNER/OPERATOR ACTION:**

1. **WALL OWNER/OPERATOR SHALL DO THE FOLLOWING WHEN USING A PETZL SEAT STYLE HARNESS:** Immediately install a second carabiner through the end of the swivel with gates opposed {two (2) carabiners on each belay cable} and ensure that both carabiners with gates opposed are hooked into the Petzl climber's harness correctly and locked before allowing any person to climb the wall.

**NOTE: THIS DIRECTIVE DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL MAKES OF HARNESSES. ALWAYS FOLLOW MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS.**

For service question contact :

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