SAFERIGHT
manufacturers of
Fallright Height Safety Equipment

Quality Endorsed Company
ISO 9001 QEC20205
SAI Global

Australian Standard AS 1891.1 for Belts & Harnesses
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: DOUBLE ACTION ATTACHMENT HARDWARE

It has come to our attention that a number of safety alerts have been circulating regarding an incident in which a double action hook was inadvertently released while in use.

From the Loy Yang Power advisory note (excerpts)

"The harness wearer was working with their back hard up against an overhead conveyor belt"
"The lanyard was enabled to roll over allowing the webbing to wrap around the safety catch".

The fact that the user allowed this to happen, e.g. failing to isolate a conveyor belt, clearly shows a lack of training with the equipment and that the user was not following manufacturer's instructions and safe practice procedures.

If you allow the webbing to wrap around any double action hook, including low profile hooks and hooks with ears, it will defeat the locking gate, significantly increasing the likelihood of rollout.

The pictures attached to the advisory note, show a slightly different scenario, the snap hook has been forced back against the shock absorber. Both high and low profile hooks can be triggered (first stage) in this scenario.

The inadvertent tripping of double action hardware is well documented in the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1891.4 : 2000 – Industrial fall-Arrest Systems and Devices – Selection, Use and Maintenance.

AS/NZS 1891.4:2000 - 4.2.4 Attachment hardware (Excerpt)
In the case of double-acting (locking) snap hooks the locking mechanism reduces but does not eliminate the possibility of roll-out.

AS/NZS 1891.4:2000 - 4.3.5 Attachment hardware - Usage problems (Excerpt)
(c) ***Inadvertent tripping of locking gate****. Although considerably less likely than simple roll-out of a single acting connection, it is possible to inadvertently trip the locking* ***gate of a snap hook or karabiner and at the same time suffer roll-out through the main*** *gate.*

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This inadvertent tripping can be caused by pressing the double action snap hooks against any surface/ material.

The Standard recommends the following user check prior to use.

AS/NZS 1891.4:2000 - 4.3.5 Attachment hardware - Usage problems (Excerpt)
The checking of a connection for possible susceptibility to roll-out entails firstly determining how easily moving contact with clothing or equipment can cause initial tripping of the locking gate. If this is relatively easy, simultaneously twisting the connection in all possible directions will find whether a subsequent roll-out is possible after the locking gate has been tripped.

Double action snap hooks were recommended in the standard as a safer alternative to single action snap hooks, which were in common use at the time (the standard banned the use of single action snap hooks for primary load bearing connections). Technology moves on and our industry continues to develop new, safer attachment hardware. Currently the triple action karabiner is the most secure attachment hardware in common usage.

SAFERIGHT supports and recommends the continued movement to a safer working environment. In light of this we have supported the use of triple action karabiners for the past five years.

Our double action snap hooks fully comply with the relevant Standards and have never been involved in an injury/incident. As with all height safety equipment correct training is necessary to ensure the user's safety.

A number of our clients have followed SAFERIGHT's recommendations and banned the use of double action snap hooks and screw gate karabiners on their sites. They now use only triple action karabiners.

We note with concern the safety alerts have referred to the double action hook in question as a Fallright hook. Please note Fallright is not the manufacturer of the hook in question and SALA, Dalloz and almost every major manufacturer of fall arrest/prevention equipment utilise an identical hook which may or may not appear with their respective company name, but is manufactured by third party manufacturers which is not Fallright. Therefore to call the hook a Fallright hook is inaccurate.

If you have any further queries or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9334 1000.

Yours sincerely

G.N.J. (MACK) McCORMACK
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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