



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

SAFETY ALERT

Subject: ISC KH212SGB4 Karabiners.

Number: SA 15/11

DIO Secretariat Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

Date of issue:
13 December 2011

Contact if different from above Sponsor:

David Wheeler

Professional & Technical Services, Hard FM
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7RL

Tel: 94421 2106/0121 311 2106 Email: DIOOpsNorth-PTS7a1@mod.uk

Who Should Read this:

Who Should Read this: CEstOs, Top Level Budget Holders, Project Sponsors, MOD Project Managers and others within the IPT (for both Prime, PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts), Defence Infrastructure Organisation Advisors and Property Managers/Site Estate Representatives with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs) Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers (WaH), Authorised Persons (WaH), purchasers and installers of climbing equipment.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No Expiry
except on update.

Health and Safety

Document Aim:

To alert all personnel working on the MoD estate to the potential dangers of the ISC KH212SGB4 Karabiners.

1. Introduction

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.
- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for all Regional Prime Contractors, Maintenance Management Organisations (MMO), all MOD Climbing Organisations and any other organisations involved in Working at Height on the Defence estate, to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD's Safety Rules & Procedures.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO (USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

2. Background

- a. DIO has been notified by a Regional Prime Contractor (RPC) of a safety alert issued by International Safety Components Ltd (ISC) detailing potential defects with its KH212SGB4 range of Karabiners.
- b. ISC's safety alert reported that a 'hinge pin' had fallen out of one of its KH212SGB4 range of Karabiners. This had the effect of negating the locking gate and potentially allowing the climber to become detached from their Fall Prevention Equipment.
- c. The potential defect only affected the KH212SGB4 range of Karabiners. The affected batches are 10683 and 12833 – these numbers can be found on any delivery notes. All karabiners from these two batches or with 09D stamped on the backs must be inspected or removed from service.
- d. The safety alert issued by ISC (Annex A) has been attached to this safety alert and all users of karabiners, irrespective of actual use, must consult this and conduct the appropriate inspections detailed therein.

3. Requirement

- a. **URGENT:** All establishments, RPCs, MMOs, all Climbing Organisations and all other organisations involved in Working at Height are to carry out the following actions:
 - Carry out an audit of all safety equipment held by them to determine if ISC Karabiners are in their inventory.
 - Where identified, all KH212SGB4 range of Karabiners are to be inspected in accordance with ISC's instructions to determine if defects exist.

- Where any defective karabiner is identified it is to be immediately removed from service and returned to ISC.
 - All AE (WaH)'s and AP (WaH)'s are to conduct equipment checks on any climbing organisation applying for a Permit to Climb to ensure that the effected karabiners are not being used. No Permit to Climb shall be issued where it is proposed to use these karabiners.
- b. Where any doubt exists, whether this is regarding the identity of the karabiner or its condition, then it is to be removed from service and the advice of ISC is to be sought.
- c. No equipment is to be put back into service without the written approval of ISC Ltd.