



SAFETY ALERT

PART A

Subject: DMM Carabiners

Number: SA 2015/09

DIO ODC Sponsor: Bryan Dunn

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Who Should Read this: Top Level Budget Holders, Prime Contractors, Private Finance Initiatives, Public, Private Partnership and other traditionally procured contracts, Project Managers, Site Estate Authority Teams and Property Managers 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), Heads of Establishment and Health & Safety Advisors; also any users of DMM Carabiners whether for work or recreational purposes and organisers of climbing activities.

This Safety Alert does not necessarily cover all aspects of the subject matter and readers should make themselves aware of other potential issues. Readers should also not rely on DIO Safety Alerts as their only means of becoming aware of safety issues, but they should consult widely across other media to maintain awareness.

When it takes effect: immediately

When it is due to expire: When updated or rescinded.

Aim

1. To bring to the attention of appropriate persons a potential danger in using some DMM Carabiners and a product recall notice issued by the manufacturer.

Introduction

2. Compliance with the contents of this Alert will enable compliance with the Health & Safety At Work etc Act 1974 and its subordinate Regulations.
3. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) contractor to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.
4. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Part 2 Volume 3 – High Risk Activities on the Defence Estate.
5. 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.

Requirement

6. Users and holders of carabiners are to check their equipment against the criteria set out below.
7. Refer to Product Warning Notices issued by DMM as can be found at the website hyperlinks below:

Safety Warning: <http://dmmclimbing.com/documents/dmm-product-safety-warning-11-09-2015.pdf>

Product Recall: <http://dmmclimbing.com/documents/dmm-product-recall-14-09-2015.pdf>

Procedure for Returns: <http://dmmclimbing.com/news/2015/09/recall-returns-procedure>
8. With reference to DMM's list of affected equipment, identify if any of the carabiners held are included as potentially defective equipment. Model type, product code and serial number all need to be checked as directed by the DMM Notices.
9. Following DMM advice, inspect and check the gate pusher operation. If malfunction is apparent or suspected, remove the equipment from service and follow the DMM instructions to return the product.
10. Readers are asked to pass this notice on to anyone they know who may use this type of equipment, whether for work or recreational purposes, including organisers of rope activities. Carabiners are widely used in a range of work requirements and recreational activities such as: tree surgery, climbing, caving, sailing, ballooning, construction, industrial rope work, window cleaning, whitewater rescue or theatre work.
11. For any Work at Height activity under the provision of JSP375 Part 2 Vol.3 Chapter 7 and before issuing a Permit to Climb, the Authorised Person (Working at Height) or the Authorising Engineer (Working at Height) is to conduct equipment checks with the Person in Charge of the climbing team to ensure that malfunctioning DMM carabiners are not used. If the use of such equipment is either proposed or seen to be in use, then the Permit to Climb is not to be issued or withdrawn.
12. Where any Work at Height activity is proposed that is not under the provision of JSP375 Part 2 Vol.3 Chapter 7, the person(s) within the RPC/MMO charged with implementing a Safe System of Work is to ensure that operatives carrying out the work do not use malfunctioning DMM carabiners.

13. If there is any doubt whether regarding the identity of the carabiner or its condition, then it is to be removed from service and the advice of DMM is to be sought.
14. No suspect equipment is to be put back into service without the written approval of DMM.
15. Any work incurring expenditure of MOD funding requires appropriate authority from the MOD officer responsible for the particular establishment.

Background

16. DMM have issued Notices for Product Safety Warning and Product Recall for some of their carabiners, as per the hyperlinks given in paragraph 7. These notices report a malfunction of some locking mechanisms which can prevent the gate from closing or from locking properly.
17. This Alert brings attention to Notices issued by DMM, rather than an incident, and so no further investigation is envisaged. A **Part B** of this Safety Alert will only be issued therefore if additional relevant information comes to light that changes this situation.