

Technical Bulletin

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Subject: Maintenance, Care & Inspection of Snap Hooks and Karabiners



Double-acting and triple-acting snap hooks and karabiners are in common use in personal fall protection equipment. These connectors are required to be at least double-acting and of defined strengths as outlined in AS/NZS1891.1 to minimize the possibility of failure from cross-gate loading, forced roll-out and other types of unintentional disengagement. The maintenance of snap hooks is therefore an essential component of the fall protection inspection and management program to ensure the safety of workers. The following actions are considered appropriate in conducting inspection and maintenance.

CLEANING:

Hooks may be cleaned with a mild detergent or disinfected with a mild sterile disinfectant. Locking mechanisms may be lightly lubricated with general purpose oil after cleaning. Cleaning and lubrication should be carried out after every use in a marine, drilling, or refinery environment. Connection hardware should be stored in a clean dry environment away from corrosive fumes or chemical substances.

The hook gates are spring operated, and may become sluggish if dirt builds up around the riveted pivot or around those springs located in the gate assembly.

The gate should be inspected to ensure that the spring and pivot are clear of contaminants and are activated to ensure both the rear locking gate and the front gate open and close without sticking in the open position.

When activating the latch for inspection, we recommend activating the gate using one hand. The locking rear gate should be activated first and the front gate should be depressed second, thereby allowing the hook to be opened. Once this is completed, the rear and front gate should be slowly released, allowing both gates to close.

If gate operation is sluggish but not sticking, apply a small amount of WD-40, RP7, silicon spray or alternative moisture repellent agent to the spring and hinge only, wiping any excess from the hook.

Should you have questions concerning the condition of a snap hook or karabiner contact Capital Safety.

INSPECTION FREQUENCY:

- ✓ Before and after each use, visually inspect according to steps listed below. All webbing fall protection must additionally be inspected by a competent person on a six-monthly basis, with results recorded.

INSPECTION STEPS:

- Step 1.** Inspect the karabiner or snap hook for damage. Look carefully for cracks, sharp edges, burrs, dents, or deformities. Check for bending or distortion.
- Step 2.** Inspect the hardware for excessive corrosion. The gate and lock should operate smoothly, with no difficulty. Gates must fully close and lock.



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Step 3. Inspect markings and strength ratings. Markings should be present and fully legible.

Step 4. Inspect each system component or subsystem according to manufacturer's instructions.

Step 5. Record the inspection date and results in the in the inspection and maintenance log.

If inspection reveals a defective condition, remove the unit from service and destroy it, or contact an authorized service centre for repair. Remember, **"If in doubt, tag it out."**