

TO : OUR VALUED DISTRIBUTORS
FROM: Alex Tsen –Fall Protection Project Manager
DATE: September 3, 2008
SUBJECT: FP541 Rope Grab Clinch Nut Product Advisory

North Safety has received reports that the clinch nut on our FP541 series rope grab is being dislodged from the body of the rope grab housing in situations where there is repetitive impact to the unit. This may happen, for example, when the rope grab is used in a horizontal direction and the unit is continuously hitting the floor.

Initially, repetitive impact on the unit can cause the locking thumb screw to back away from the clinch nut (Figure 1). Once this occurs, additional repetitive impact on the end of the screw can cause the clinch nut to dislodge from the housing of the rope grab (Figure 2). If there is further continuous impact on the unit after the clinch nut is dislodged, the clinch nut may eventually become completely dislodged from the locking thumb screw (Figure 3). Without the positive connection between the clinch nut and thumb screw, the rope grab will not perform properly in the event of a fall which can lead to serious injury or death.

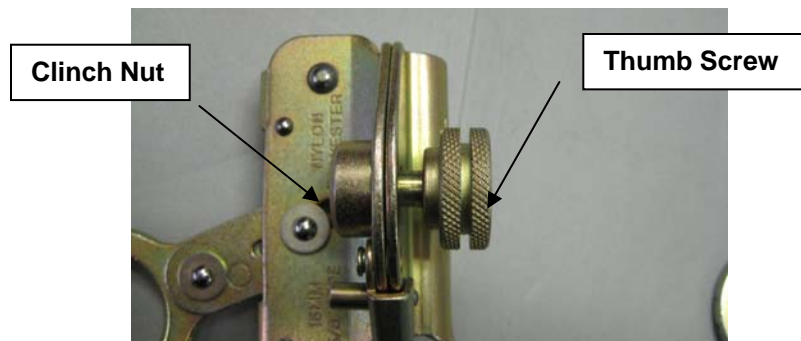


Figure 1

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Figure 2



Figure 3

To ensure that this does not happen in your workplace please identify areas where this unit may be exposed to repetitive impact and notify your personnel of this possibility. Please ensure that the thumb screw is always tightly secured to the cinch nut and that it is periodically checked to ensure that the tight positive connection still exists. More frequent inspections may be required for applications where the unit is exposed to high repetitive impact of the unit.

If during your inspections you become aware of the progression of the separation of the cinch nut from the thumb screw as described above, please remove the impacted rope grabs from service immediately and contact North Safety.

While a rope grab will continue to function as intended until the cinch nut is dislodged completely from the unit (Figure 3), we recommend that in an abundance of caution, you remove any rope grab from service that begins to demonstrate a separation between the thumb screw and cinch nut. (Figure 2).

North safety has identified the problem only specific to FP541 series rope grabs that have a stamp on the housing that states "Made In Fabrique Au Taiwan" (Figure 4). North Safety is in the process of correcting the issue and we are confident that this will be rectified in a timely manner.

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Figure 4

Possible SKU's that include a FP541 series rope grab and are affected by this advisory but not limited to are: FP541, FP542, FP543, FPD698/1DP386, FPFC1AKIT, FPFC1KIT, FPFC2KIT, FPFC3KIT, FPFC4KIT, FP90/25, FP90/25"SIZE", FP90/50, FP90/50"SIZE", FPD90/25, FPD90/50, FP95/25, FP95/50, FPD95/50.

We are in the process of finalizing our investigation. A second bulletin will be issued in the following weeks which will detail a procedure on how to exchange impacted rope grabs. If you require more information and/or have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,
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