



## Cracks to metal buckles on Petzl Sequoia and Sequoia Swing Harnesses

A UK based Network Operator has recently reported what appeared to be a small crack on the metal buckle component of two Petzl Sequoia and two Sequoia SRT harnesses, as below.



Closer inspection suggested the cracks may be splits in the fold of metal which may have formed due to wear. Over time as the buckle has worn it has developed a small lip/burr on the edge. It appears this is actually a small split or gap in this surface burr as opposed to a crack in the buckle.



The buckles on the harnesses were replaced and further investigated by Petzl, who have confirmed the marks appear to be cosmetic. They believe they will not affect the strength of the product as they are only on the surface, and is within acceptable tolerance.

**The incident serves as a reminder that climbing and fall arrest equipment used within the Utility sector must receive:**

- user or operator pre-use checks so that any faults due to day-to-day wear and tear and malfunction of safety related equipment can be reported and recorded
- a formal Thorough Examination at a maximum frequency of 6 months completed and recorded by a Competent person in line with Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

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