

April 20, 2011

Subject: Verification of lanyard hook for work at height

This memo follows an incident that occurred on April 14, 2011, in which a hook of a Y-shaped lanyard got unhooked from a dorsal ring during work at a height of 70 feet (approximately 25 metres).

Although the investigation and analysis are still underway, we recommend to immediately stop using all lanyards equipped with this type of hook.

The lanyard with defects is from Protecta and is manufactured by Capital Safety. Although lanyards share the same model number, they can be equipped with different types of hooks depending on the manufacturing date.

According to the Protecta representative, **this type of hook can also be found on other lanyard models, regardless of the manufacturer.**

Hooks to be removed have a gate with a capacity of 3600 lbs. The hook is engraved with the following text: "Gate strength 3600LBS (16KN)".

We are asking you to verify the hook model on all lanyards of your departments. If you find this type of hook, remove the lanyard until further notice.



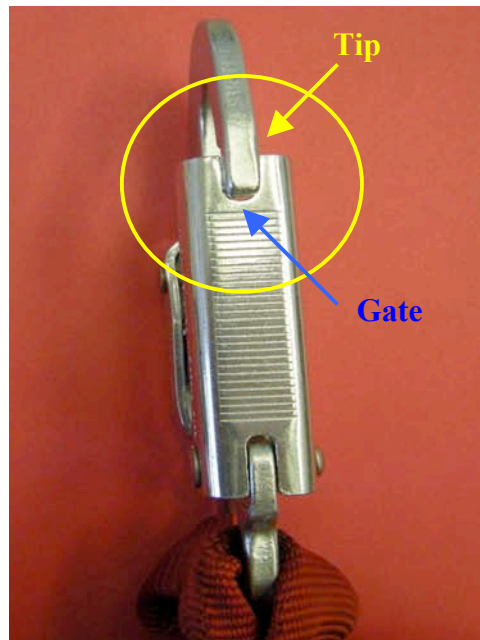
Model to be removed
(3600 lbs. gate)

Observed defect: The post-incident verification of the worker's lanyard allowed to observe that **the locking mechanism of the hook jammed** repeatedly while being adequately operated. In this case, there is a risk for the gate to open during use.



Photo: Lower hook: the hook model locking mechanism to be removed got jammed after normal handling.

Observed characteristic: The hook of the model to be removed has a tip that is not of the same length as the gate, which provides grip on the gate and allows it to open relatively easily through rotation in the harness ring.



Model to be removed
(3600 lbs. gate)

The manufacturer has currently been notified and is conducting its own investigation. We do not recommend to throw away the removed lanyards because of a potential company recall.

The internal investigation continues and the analysis will be carried out shortly, other memos will follow as required.

Multimedia files (video) are available on Prospect under:

Rio Tinto Alcan / Primary Metal North America / Quebec Engineering / HSE / Significant Potential Incident (SPI) / Work at height CEO.

Should you need any additional information, please contact:

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