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SUBJECT:

SWS FIRE adjustable harness

STATUS:

Informative

IDENTIFICATION:

All personnel, non-tandem adjustable FIRE harness systems manufactured by SWS.

BASIS:

It has come to our knowledge that some skydivers neglect to place the locking tab into it's pocket on the main lift web after adjustment. Also the main lift web has been extended in some cases to it's maximum length by pulling it all the way down to the buckle. Harness operation has not been tested in these modes and theoretically it may come possible that the free end of the main lift web can slip out through the buckle.



BACKGROUND:

A common issue with adjustable harness systems is the possibility of unsymmetrical adjustment, which leads to skewed harness resulting in problems during deployment, descent and landing. It may also result in harness damage. To avoid that, during the development and testing of adjustable harness we made 4 (3 for small rigs) pockets on the main lift web and a locking tab at the free end of the webbing. The tab is to be secured into the pocket on the main lift web.



Thanks to such a design, unsymmetrical adjustment is no longer an issue and the webbing is better protected against damage. However – if used in a wrong way, it is still possible to have the free end of the webbing to slip out of the buckle. The lowest pocket is located 9 cm from the free end of the webbing and there is 2 cm between the correct location (with the tab placed into the lowest pocket) and the webbing fully extended in an incorrect way.



PROCEDURES:

The manufacturer is updating the manual with more specific instructions for adjustable harness. Should customer request, a limiter can be installed on the free ends of the webbing to prevent the possibility of the webbing to escape through the buckle. (this modification makes the removal of the webbing through the buckle impossible also for service and repair)

FOR SKYDIVERS:

- Always place the locking tab to the pocket on the main lift web

- Do not jump the harness incorrectly fully extended

FOR RIGGERS:

The limiter can be installed by a rigger with appropriate rating

Material:

- 9 cm piece of Type 17 webbing (webbing for narrow risers)
- size “5” nylon cord
- heavy duty harness machine (Class 23)

Fold the webbing lengthwise in two and then fold the ends in the center.

Sew the folded piece of webbing to the free end of the main lift web as shown in pictures (raise the locking tab before sewing).



You can also have this modification made by the manufacturer, free of charge.