

USE

- Connectors can be used for the following activities : rescue, mountaineering, climbing, caving via ferrata, mountain walking, work at height.
- The connectors covered by these instructions are personal protective devices designed to be integrated in fall arrest personal protection systems such as harnesses and cables. The full body harness is the only acceptable body retarding device that can be used in a fall arrest system.

- The connectors comprising a safety chain (harness, rope, slings, and/or points, belay devices, descenders...) must conform to European Norms or UIAA Norms.

- Check that this product is compatible with the other components of your equipment.

- It is essential that the anchor device is always well positioned and that the user minimize the risk of fall and the height of the fall.

- The connector and its component of the mechanical resistance between a proper anchorage point and the user who should accidentally fall. A malfunction due to improper use of the equipment is dangerous for the physical health of the user.

- The connectors must be used as follows : closed - with the closing system locked - without any constraints or other pressures on the outer side of the connector.

- This connector is personally allocated to a competent person for the entire life of the system.

- When a connector is inserted in any fall arrest system, in order to regulate the other components correctly and not compromise the efficiency of the system you must take into account the length of the connector.

TYPES OF CONNECTORS FOR MOUNTAINEERING (EN12275)

1. CLASS A - BASIC WITH STRAIGHT GATE: Connector in various forms and sizes. Mainly used for connecting the various parts of the harness.

2. CLASS B - BASIC WITH BENT GATE: The shape of the gate allows the easy insertion of the rope.

3. CLASS H - HMS WITH SCREWGATE CLOSING: This type of connector is indispensable for belaying during rescue operations.

4. CLASS H - HMS WITH AUTOMATIC CLOSING GATE: This type of connector guarantees maximum safety. Designed for progressive resistance, it is a good alternative to the screw gate connector in rescue operations. The correct use is shown in Fig. 1-4. Fig. 2 and 3 show the prohibited use.

5. CLASS K - SPECIAL FOR THE VIA FERRATA: This model is designed with an automatic gate closing system that at the same time has an opening opening.

6. CLASS T - TERMINATION CONNECTOR: These connectors are to be used with webbing-in webbing that has a breaking load greater than 22kN, width max. 21mm and is in conformity with the European Standard EN566. See Fig. 9.

7. TYPE-X - OVAL: Connector for use on fixed rope and for caving, for pulley-brake and descent operations. 8. CLASS Q - WITH SCREW GATE: For ending or permanent connections.

WARNING : DO NOT USE FOR CLIMBING

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
For a correct use always insert the rope in the connector from the external part of the rock as shown in Fig. 6, otherwise a fall CAN CAUSE THE ROPE TO ACCIDENTALLY COME OUT. This risk increases if you use connectors with a bent gate (Fig. 7). During use check that the connector doesn't hit any obstacles and doesn't touch the rock in any way (Fig. 10). An accidental opening of the gate (caused by an impact of the projection of the rock pressing on the wire), the rope is running rapidly through the connector creating vibrations that can cause the gate top, open, vibrations, etc.) considerably decreases the resistance of the connector.

IMPROPER USE REDUCES THE RESISTANCE AND LONGEVITY OF THE CONNECTOR.

TYPES OF CONNECTORS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION (EN362)

CLASS A : ANCHOR CONNECTOR : component which may be linked directly to a specific type of anchor.

CLASS B : BASIC CONNECTOR : intended to be used as component

CLASS T : TERMINATION CONNECTOR : element of a sub-system in which the loading acts on a predetermined direction.

The class identification is marked on the device. Refer to table C to identify the rank and the maximum gate opening ("a" in mm) of your connector.

ANCHORS

- Use only anchors complying with the EN 795 with a minimum breaking strength of 12kN.

- While using the connector and other personal protective devices, the user must remain below the anchor point. The position angle of the height of the anchor point from the ground must be calculated in view of a possible fall, taking into account the length of the rope and of the devices connected to the rope, any dangerous obstacles, and the possibility of a "swinging" effect. The work must be carried out in such a way as to minimize both the potential fall and the potential fall distance.

WARNING : The connector can catch with a normal locking gate (several gates) to be used only when the opening and closing operation is not frequent. When using these connectors, the screw must be completely closed; for connectors class Q verify that the threads of the screw are not visible. Avoid loading a connector across its gate. Verify that the technical identification and control card conformance with standard EN 365:2004 is provided with the product. This card must be filled in and kept updated by the user. If the card is missing, do not use the device.

WEBBING

Use only homologated webbing marked CE, that is in conformity with the European Standard EN 566 having a minimum breaking load of 22 kN. Before each use verify that the webbing is in good condition, verify that there are no signs of wear, abrasions, cut threads or fraying weave. If the webbing shows any one of the mentioned defects, replace it immediately. In any case always replace the webbing after a serious fall.

WARNING : Be sure the webbing is inserted in the correct position (Fig. 9)

PRECAUTIONS

- Verify the strength of the anchors (12kN). Make sure the material of the anchors are compatible with the webbing.

- The anchor of the fall arrest system must preferably be above the user. When the anchor in which the connector is stored must not exceed 100°C. Store away from corrosives.

- The clearance under the user must be sufficient to prevent him from striking an obstacle in case of a fall.

- Before using during use, the possibility of rescue in case of difficulty must be considered.

- Users must be certain that their health and fitness is appropriate to the maintenance of their security during use of this equipment.

- Verify the compatibility of this device with the other component of the system.

- When using catch free system connectors (Fig. 12) pay particular attention to the slot on the lever: it has to be dirt-free soil, mud, gravel etc. In the case of use on ice falls or alpine environments, make sure the slot on the lever is not obstructed by snow or ice.

MAINTENANCE

- Connectors must not be allowed contact with chemical agents; this applies also for transport.

- A periodic in-depth inspection must be carried out every 3 months for a frequent use, every 12 months for an occasional use.

- During inspection, check that the connections on the connector are legible.

- During inspection, check that the components of the connector are legible.

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