

# Updated information on the possible presence of a crack on one of the steel chain links of the Petzl ZIGZAG and ZILLON



July 23, 2014

This message follows the information issued May 19, 2014



## Facts:

- Several ZIGZAGs have been returned to Petzl with a cracked friction chain link.
- The return rate remains below 2/1000.
- No incidents or accidents have been reported to us.
- Both ZIGZAG and ZILLON friction chain links are affected.
- When a crack appears, it is always on the same side of the friction chain links.
- All devices returned to us with a cracked link have been replaced under warranty.

## Petzl technical analysis:

Petzl has identified the root causes of the appearance of these cracks. They are the result of a combination of three parameters:

- Riveting parameters on one side that create potential residual tensile stress in the friction chain link.
- The small cross section of the link near the rivet position.
- Heat treatment that results in this part being too rigid.

## Due to the combination of these three parameters:

- A crack can appear over time. The gradual appearance of these cracks makes them undetectable during final inspection.
- Only a very low percentage of ZIGZAG/ZILLON devices (2 out of 1000) may potentially develop such a crack.

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## Technical changes already underway for the friction chain of the Petzl ZIGZAG and ZILLON:

The following improvements are already being implemented and have been extensively tested in the field:

- Adjustment of the riveting parameters for the link assembly to eliminate residual tensile stress in the link.
- Reinforcement of the small cross section of the affected links.
- Adjustment of the heat treatment parameters of the link to reduce rigidity of the material.

These modifications will be applied to ZIGZAG and ZILLON devices delivered as of October 2014.

## Petzl decisions and recommendations for ZIGZAG and ZILLON devices:

- A cracked link presents no additional immediate risk to the user. However, as with any personal protective equipment (PPE), the presence of such a crack requires immediate retirement of the device.
- Considering the very low rates of potentially cracked links, and taking into consideration that a cracked link presents no additional immediate risk to the user, only cracked devices will be replaced.
- The replacement of a cracked device will be carried out under warranty. The warranty for this defect has been extended to 10 years.
- Regularly inspect your device in accordance with the Petzl PPE checking procedure.
- In the unlikely event you find a cracked link, retire your device immediately and contact the Petzl distributor in your country.

The Petzl Team.