

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.