



Safety Advice 04-2012 (NZ)

This Safety Advice outlines an incident and instructions issued internally by an asset owner following a Karabiner failure which is currently under investigation.

Incident

During a height safety training exercise an aluminium karabiner failed when load was applied. The karabiner may have been subject to 'cross-load', but was supporting the weight of a person wearing fall arrest equipment, stepping off a step ladder upper rung during a training exercise. The karabiner was considered to be well within its safe use limits, and the failure may have been attributable to metal failure through fine cracks sustained when it was dropped onto concrete from height.

PICTURE OF FAILED KARABINER



Response

The asset owner banned the use of aluminium karabiners, opting for use of triple action steel karabiners at all of their sites, and required all aluminium karabiners to be destroyed. The internal instruction required the use of standard approved karabiner locking systems conforming to AS/NZS 1891.

Any further available information post the investigation will be summarised as a follow-up Safety Advice.

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