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Object: Statement regarding inadvertent partial opening of the AVAO BOD FAST buckle

1-Problem:

-During field use inspections, one customer recently discovered and reported to Petzl a potential partial or total opening of the AVAO BOD FAST leg loop buckle without depressing a button. A video has been sent to us, but we are still waiting on the product to be returned to us for technical investigation.

2-Risk assessment:

-We have conducted performance tests on a brand new AVAO BOD FAST harnesses with partial and total opening of the fast buckles:

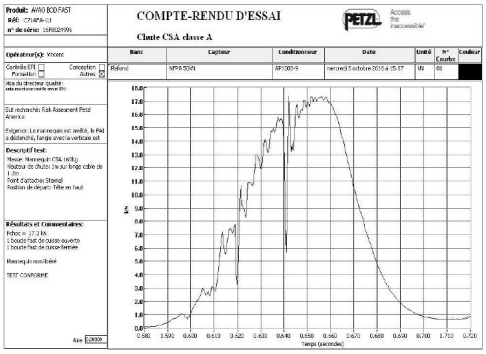
-A first test with the two FAST buckles partially opened: In this configuration the AVAO harness still passes the performance requirements based on CSA and ANSI standards.

-A second test with the FAST buckle fully opened on one leg loop: In this configuration the AVAO harness still passes the performance requirements based on CSA and ANSI standards.

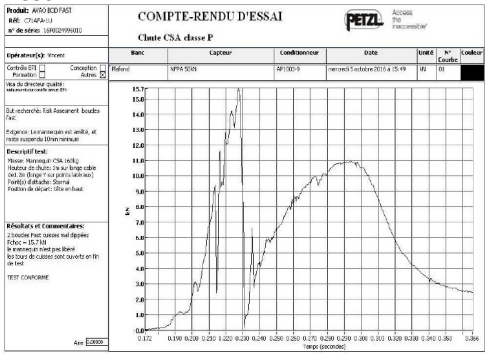
-Tests results details:

Test #	Standard	Attachement point	Starting position	Leg loop configuration	Dynamic test	Fall height	Mass	Requirement	Result
1	CSA	sternal	Head up	1 opened, 1 closed	class L	1,22 m	160 kg	Dummy not released	PASS
2	CSA	sternal	Head up	2 partly closed	class L	1,22 m	160 kg	Dummy not released	PASS
3	ANSI	dorsal	Head up	1 opened, 1 closed		1,22 m	100 kg	Dummy not released	PASS
4	ANSI	dorsal	Head up	2 partly closed		1,22 m	100 kg	Dummy not released	PASS

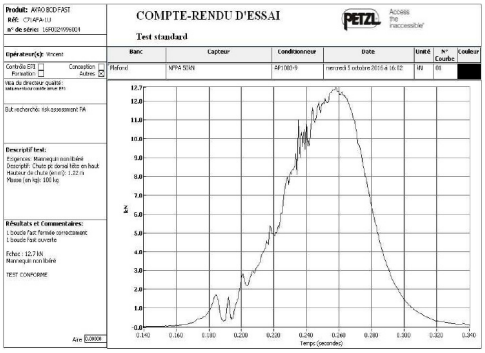
Test1



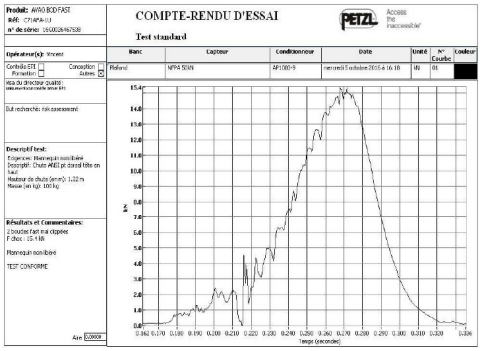
Test2



Test3



Test4



-Note: We observe that the Peak forces are less than 16KN as required in the ANSI standard. This is due to the fact that the leg loops are not well fitted (partially and/ or totally opened FAST buckles), creating a significant energy absorption in the impact (i.e.: rocking effect of the dummy). However, the fall height of the dummy has been initially set, so that the impact force achieve would 16KN with the leg loops correctly fitted.

-Conclusion: **These tests results confirm there is no safety issue**.

3-Investigation:

-We are waiting for the product in question to arrive at our test lab to start our technical investigation.

4- Corrective Actions:

-However, in our manufacturing process, we have detected some buckles with dimensional noncompliance. This non-compliance may result in a possible partial release of the FAST buckle without depressing the yellow locking button on one side

-We are working on this dimensional noncompliance to fix it as soon as possible.

- It is imperative that the harness leg loops be adjusted to fit snugly to reduce the risk of injury in case of a fall. Properly adjusted leg loops will reduce the risk of inadvertent partial opening of the FAST buckle.

5- Customer Satisfaction:

-If a user experiences a partial opening of the AVAO harness FAST buckle while in use without depressing a button, they should contact the After Sales & Service Department of the Petzl Distributor in their country to obtain additional details regarding this issue.

Petzl's priority will always remain the satisfaction and the safety of its customers. We understand the inconvenience that this issue may cause and we thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Bernard Bressoux
Product Risk Director / Directeur du Risque Produit
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