

TO: North Clients

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UPGRADE OF CARABINER PINS FOR NORTH BY HONEYWELL SAF-T-GRIP SLEEVES, P/N 602-100-003

- Saf-T-Grip Sleeves with a GOLD CARABINER PIN are affected by this advisory
- North, is offering a free retrofit for Saf-T-Grip sleeves with the old pin (gold) by replacing them with a new and improved pin (silver)
- Customers wishing to retrofit their sleeves are required to send their sleeves using the Box label enclosed to the address shown. If you need additional information please contact:

For US Customers:

- o Bud Dygert
- o Future Machine & Manufacturing
- o 509-232-2720 x101

For International and Canadian Customers:

- o Marco Maggiotto
- o Magton Machine and Automation
- o 905-940-9683

PROBLEM:

North by Honeywell has received reports that the pin attaching the carabiner to the Saf-T-Grip sleeve has prematurely deployed in the presence of frequent locking of the sleeve on to rail.

IMPORTANT:

1. Even if the problem described above occurs, it WILL NOT compromise the Saf-T-Grip sleeve's ability to arrest a fall.
2. Users SHOULD NOT detach their safety harness from the carabiner if the pin deploys prematurely.
3. Correct use of the Saf-T-Climb system can reduce the likelihood of pin deploying prematurely.

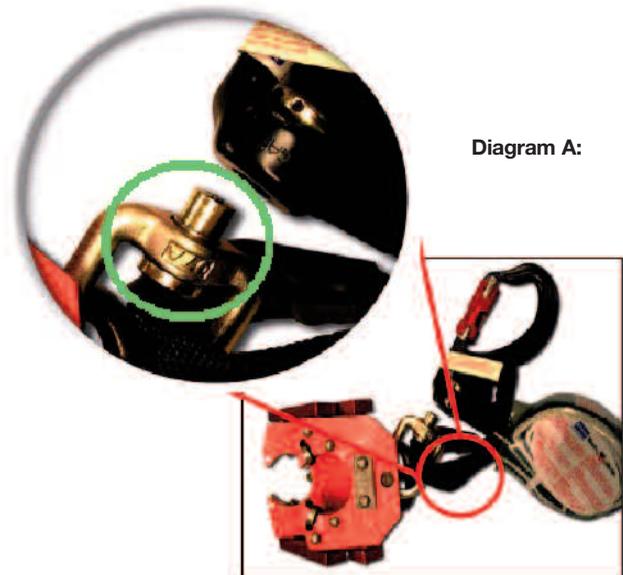


Diagram A:

North by Honeywell

U.S.A

2000 Plainfield Pike
Cranston, RI 02921
USA

Tel: 401-943-4400
Fax: 401-946-7560

www.northsafety.com

Canada

Montreal

Tel: 514-351-SAFE (7233)
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-212-SAFE (7233)
Fax: 514-355-SAFE (7233)

Toronto

Tel: 1-888-316-7233
Fax: 1-888-667-8477

Edmonton

Tel: 1-800-661-3638
Fax: 780-436-0048

Latin America

Tel: 1-514-905-3715
Fax: 1-514-351-2645

Mexico

Tel./Fax: (01152) 686-906-8108
Fax: (01152) 686-906-8133
01800-788-3074 (Only in Mexico)

SOLUTION:

North by Honeywell is offering a free retrofit for the Saf-T-Grip sleeve by replacing the old “gold” pins with the new and improved “silver” pins providing extra resistance against premature deployment. The pin’s function in the energy management system remains unchanged as a connection between the carabineer and the sleeve will deploy in the event of a fall to activate the shock absorber.



Diagram B:

HOW TO GET YOUR GOLD PIN UPGRADED WITH A SILVER PIN:

1. Send in the Saf-T-Grip sleeve along using the enclosed box label to the address shown. With this label, the North UPS account will be charged for the shipping.
2. The Saf-T-Grip sleeve will be upgraded with the new pin and returned in 24-48 hours time.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SAF-T-GRIP SLEEVES

The pin in the carabineer assembly is part of an energy management system engineered into the Saf-T-Grip sleeve for safety purposes. It is intended to break if a fall occurs permitting deployment of the force-limiting energy absorber that is attached at one end to the carabineer and at the other end to the D-ring on the sleeve. The energy management system engineered into the Saf-T-Grip sleeve will reduce deceleration forces on the user’s body when the sleeve arrests a fall and, by reducing those forces; will reduce the severity of injuries they might otherwise cause.

Premature deployment of the pin will not prevent the Saf-T-Grip sleeve from arresting a fall. It does, however, prevent normal use of the system. Users must be clearly instructed that, if such an event occurs, they should not detach their safety harness from the carabineer unless they are near the ground or in some other safe location. If they detach their harness from the carabineer they will be without any fall protection and could be injured or killed in a fall. A user who experiences such an occurrence should instead descend the ladder using the following method:

1. First, stop climbing. Keep three-point contact with the ladder, that is, both feet and one hand in contact with the ladder;
2. Grasp the sleeve with the free hand and release its grip on the rail;
3. Slide the sleeve down the rail a convenient distance;
4. Climb down the ladder a corresponding distance;
5. Repeat these steps until reaching the ground;
6. Once safely on the ground, the sleeve should be removed from service immediately and North should be contacted.

To reduce the likelihood of pin breakage, users are strongly encouraged to use the system as described in the instructional manual. Users should be told that:

- The Saf-T-Grip sleeve is designed for use only with harnesses with an attaching D-ring near the user's navel. It should not be used with harnesses equipped with a D-ring at chest level or anywhere other than near the navel. Use with improper harnesses will likely cause frequent engagement of the sleeve with the rail and may result in the premature deployment of the pin. Even more important, using an improper harness may prevent proper operation of the Saf-T-Climb system if a fall occurs and cause serious injury or death. North Safety strongly recommends the Saf-T-Grip sleeve be used only with North Safety harnesses.
- If the Saf-T-Grip sleeve engages the rail while the user is climbing up a ladder, the user should not try to force the sleeve to continue sliding. Trying to force the engaged sleeve to move will put damaging stress on the pin in the carabineer and may also damage the metal bearings in the sleeve. Instead, the user should simply lower their self slightly to disengage the sleeve's grip on the rail and then resume climbing normally. If the sleeve engages while the user is climbing down the ladder, the user similarly should not try to force it. The user should simply raise their self slightly to free the sleeve and then continue descending normally.
- Users should not suspend themselves in the Saf-T-Climb system. This is a misuse for which the system is not designed and puts damaging stress on components of the system, increasing the likelihood of breakage. The Saf-T-Climb system is designed to permit a user to rest while climbing, but a resting user must keep both feet on the ladder and maintain a grip on the ladder with at least one hand.

North by Honeywell wishes to remind you how important it is to install the Saf-T-Grip sleeve on the rail right side up. A Saf-T-Grip sleeve installed upside down will not prevent a fall. There are warnings on the underside of the sleeve to alert users not to install it with that side up and a small moveable bar attached to the D-ring of the sleeve is designed to prevent upside-down installation. North Safety recommends this bar be inspected before each installation of the sleeve on a rail to assure it has not been damaged in a way that interferes with proper operation.

For more information on proper climbing and inspection techniques, do not hesitate to direct any questions concerning this matter to saf-t-climb@northsafety.com or (800) 836-8006.

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