

Ocun Harness

In April 2000 the BMC Technical Committee received an Ocun Zeeper harness (made in Czech) from a retailer who was concerned about slippage at the waist buckle. They had found that if a properly threaded buckle was angled back (i.e. if there was catching on the buckle) and the waist belt loaded it could be made to slip free of the buckle under a relatively low load. This is a problem well known to the Technical Committee and one which to a greater or lesser extent occurs with most harnesses. In harnesses where this slippage occurs easily then gradual slippage under repetitive loading has also been observed.

With all harnesses buckle design is a compromise between minimising slippage and maximising ease of threading. In the case of the Ocun the design is very easy to use, but slippage under load (with the buckle angled back) occurs too easily. Following examination of the harness the importer and manufacturer were contacted. The manufacturer accepted the points made by the BMC and promised that the buckle system would be re designed and a new version of the harness should be available now.

As already stated slippage can occur gradually in many harnesses. If wearing a harness over a long period then get into the habit of checking that serious slippage has not taken place. For further details of this phenomenon please contact the BMC office for a copy of the technical report.

Update - August 2000

The Technical Committee is pleased to report that the Czech based manufacturers have responded to concerns in a very positive way and have recently submitted an entirely new buckle system to the Committee for inspection. This new system which incorporates smaller holes and an asymmetric buckle shape seems to address the committees concerns and Ocun plan to reproduce the harness with this new design. The Technical Committee would like to commend Ocun for their rapid response and professional approach.