



Founder of the European Ropes Course Industry

22nd December 2012

Re: Safety Notice:

On the 21st September 2012, RCD released a safety notice regarding an incident with a Niko rail assembly used on a Ropes Course.

RCD commissioned a full and thorough independent investigation with a firm of forensic specialists.

Regrettably, the trolley was found to have a number of inconsistencies which contributed to the incident; however, it seems that this was an isolated incident.

Some recommendations have been made which the manufacturing company (Niko) are adopting.

All existing trolleys may remain in service provided:

- The bolt and eye nut can freely rotate as one unit (i.e. they do not rotate independently from each other). This shall be a monthly inspection.
- The roll pin is in place through the eye nut and is not heavily corroded
- The surface between the bolt head and the trolley is lubricated periodically (with an appropriate non petroleum based lubricant).

Please see the attached pictures for identification purposes.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Nick Moriarty

Director

Ropes Course Developments



Founder of the European Ropes Course Industry

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Safety Notice:

On the 18th September 2012 an eye nut from a Niko rail assembly (used on a ropes course) became detached from its bolt. Thankfully no one was injured.

The UK supplier for the Niko Rail Safety system has drawn the initial conclusion that the roll pin, that prevents the Nut from unwinding from the thread of the bolt, sheered. Further investigations into the failure are taking place; however, in the meantime the manufacturers are recommending that care be taken to ensure that the bolt can freely rotate (and is not seized), that the roll pin is in place and that the surface between the bolt head and the trolley is lubricated (with an appropriate non petroleum based lubricant) periodically.

Please see the attached pictures for identification.

As far as RCD is aware this is an isolated incident. Moreover, it is peculiar in that the Niko system was new this year. Similar systems have been on ropes courses for many years, in very harsh environments, and have performed reliably without any known failures. The safety system in question conformed to the requirements of EN: 795 for protection against falls from height - Anchor devices.

RCD will publish more information as it becomes available but in the meantime we are of the view that the Niko safety system is tried and tested and is popular with many manufacturers and operators around the world.

Regards

Nick Moriarty

Director

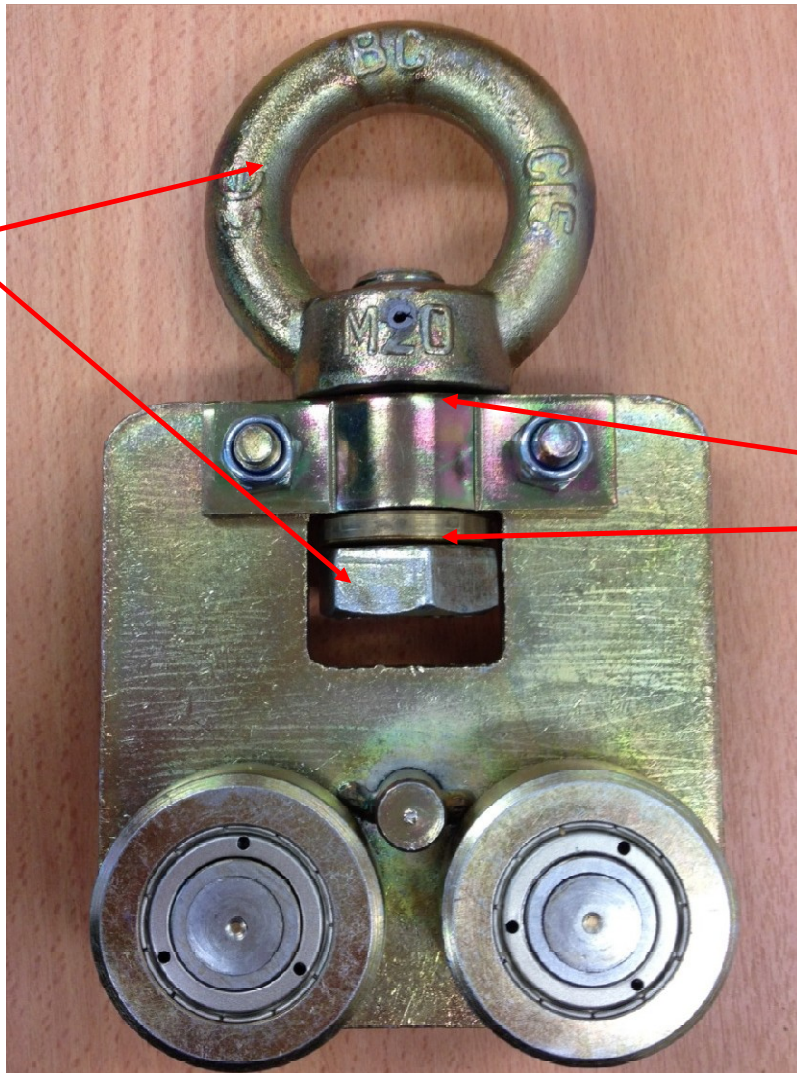
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Close up of a new eye nut



Roll pin in place

Niko trolley



Eye nut and bolt must turn freely (together)

Lubricate Bolt here

Example of the NIKO rail system

