

Important Safety Notice on Metolius Carabiners

We have recently become aware of a problem with some of the pins (rivets) on our **quickdraw and X-comp carabiners**. A few carabiners have been discovered with pins that are not properly peened over. Any carabiners received after October 2003 are suspect and must be checked. Our estimate is that from 5 to 15 carabiners sold after October have this defect. Finding these carabiners is like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack, so it is important to check every one.

There is a quick and easy inspection procedure we'd like you to perform on any carabiners purchased since Oct. 2003.

Please Post!

First, look at the pins. The pins should be rounded over on both sides of the carabiner gate (Fig. 1).

Second, try to push the pins out in both directions. It should be impossible to do this.

If the carabiner passes these two tests, it is good, and ready to climb with. It will be very obvious if the pin has not been properly peened over, because it will stick out on one side (Fig. 2), and can be pushed out in one direction (Fig. 3). Please call us at once with the serial number if you find a defective carabiner (Fig. 4). This problem is difficult to spot if you are not looking specifically for it. But once you look for it and perform the tests, it is easy to see.

Carabiners to Check: Quickdraw Carabiners and X-Comp Carabiners. *NOTE:* Each carabiner is individually numbered. The first four digits of the serial number correspond to the year and month of manufacture. A serial number beginning with 03-11 was made in November 2003. Carabiners numbered 03-10 through 04-04 must be checked.



If you do not feel comfortable performing the inspection, send the carabiners back to us and we will inspect them and return them to you ASAP. We will also be available by phone to walk you through the inspection process and answer questions regarding this problem. It is a fairly simple procedure. You could look through your carabiners, sort out the suspect dates and then check only those carabiners for the defect. However, on the practical side, it is faster, easier, safer, and more certain to simply check every carabiner. By the time you look at the date code and confirm the date, you could have already inspected the carabiner.

The next step is to try to contact friends that have purchased carabiners. If you know of other climbers that may have purchased the carabiners in question, please contact them immediately with this information. They can perform the inspection themselves, bring them to one of our dealers for inspection, or send them to us, whichever they prefer.

We have contacted the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) and are working with them regarding this issue. We will post a more complete explanation of the problem on our website within a few days.

Please do not assume that since you have been climbing with these carabiners for several months and have not had any problems, that they must be free of this potential defect. The pins tend to stay in place quite well even if they are not peened over. The pins could actually stay in place through years of use without coming out. You **MUST** check them.