



IRATA STATEMENT
USE OF PETZL SHUNT AS A BACK-UP DEVICE
TOWED WITH A CORD DURING CONTINUOUS DESCENT

Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs]
to be read in conjunction with the IRATA Statement

1, What are the specific risks with the Petzl Shunt that I need to re-address in my risk assessments

- Risk 1= Panic Grabbing or holding the rope above the Petzl Shunt during any manoeuvre
- Risk 2= Panic Grabbing or holding the Petzl Shunt during any manoeuvre
- Risk 3= Rescue use with a 2 person load – particularly in training
- Risk 4= Use by users over 100kg
- Other potential risks exist in relation to the foreseeable uses and misuses of the Petzl Shunt in your particular applications during industrial rope access. These must be identified and treated by the user's complete risk analysis prior to specification and subsequent use.

2, What happens if we change the equipment or method but then have an incident, who is to blame?

Answer:

The Employer has responsibility for the supply of equipment and training in the method of use.

3, Why now – the shunt has been used successfully for years?

Answer:

Petzl have issued a statement and FAQs that is available on their website as a result of this IRATA has provided its statement to address these issues.

4, Who is responsible for any changes that may be required?

Answer:

It is the Employer's responsibility to select and train operatives in the equipment used or supplied.

5, What is my legal position?

Answer:

In many countries using, providing or operating personal protective equipment specifically against the manufacturer's recommendations could be illegal [for example European PPE Regulations].

6, What if client requires a particular type or set of equipment?

Answer:

A dialogue should be opened between the client and the technical authority from within the company, to explain and justify the equipment and techniques to be used.

7, As an Employer how do we know that a Technician has been trained in the use a particular piece of equipment?

Answer:

Each company should verify that their technicians are competent in the use of any particular equipment and technique.

Each technician should complete the details of any training and equipment used in their IRATA log book.

Assessors must fill in descender/ back-up device & appropriate lanyard used on the assessment forms.

8, Will IRATA allow towed back-up devices if their performance and effectiveness can be demonstrated.

Answer:

Yes