IMPACT GUARD RETROFIT & UPGRADE NOTICE

HOIST LINE TENSION LIMITER

The DBI-SALA Hoist Line Tension Limiter (model #3601490), connects in line between the suspended worker and the winch line. If the worker becomes entangled in a fixed object, the Tension Limiter deploys a bright yellow cable intended to alert the winch operator to stop. When the Tension Limiter deploys, it limits the load on the worker to reduce the possibility of severe injury. A Tension Limiter is not a fall protection system. A backup personal fall arrest system (such as an SRL) must always be used in conjunction with a Tension Limiter (see figure 1).

Capital Safety has received a very limited number of reports of inadvertent damage to Tension Limiters during use. Specifically, during ascent, if the Tension Limiter impacts and is trapped by a fixed object while under load from the winch, it is possible that the force applied to the unit by the winch can damage the face plate and housing bolts of the unit. In extreme cases under excessive load, the face plate may be ripped off the unit. In such an event, the resulting damage to the unit can create a risk of injury to the user or workers below. To eliminate the potential for the unit to be damaged as described above, Capital Safety has developed a retrofit kit in the form of an Impact Guard for the Tension Limiter.
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This is not a recall of the Tension Limiter. There have been no reports of injuries associated with these reports. Tension Limiter units that continue to pass the normal pre-use inspection guidelines set out in the User Manual remain safe to use, although Capital Safety recommends installation of the Impact Guard as a precaution against inadvertent damage to the unit during use.

Note that all Tension Limiters manufactured after May 13, 2015 will have the Impact Guard pre-installed by Capital Safety.

Next steps

If you have any Tension Limiters (model #3601490) deployed in the field as identified above, users should conduct a normal pre-use inspection every time the unit is used:

- If there is damage to the face plate or housing bolts of the unit as described above (aside from normal wear), or if the unit does not pass the pre-use inspection guidelines set out in the User Manual for any other reason, the unit should be removed from service and repaired.
- If the unit passes the pre-use inspection guidelines set out in the User Manual, the unit is safe to use until the retrofit upgrade can be installed.

You have several options for installing the Impact Guard Retrofit Kit (#3601501):

1) You can contact our Customer Service department at 800-328-6146 (prompt #2012) or email TL3@capitalsafety.com to request a Retrofit Kit be shipped to you directly. Upon receipt you can easily complete the simple retrofit procedure using the instructions provided.
2) If you do not wish to install the upgrade yourself, you can contact our Customer Service department at 800-328-6146 (prompt #2012) or email TL3@capitalsafety.com to obtain a “QA” upgrade number to return the unit to Capital Safety for installation of the Retrofit Kit.
3) The Retrofit Kit can also be installed by any Capital Safety Authorized Repair Center. The Retrofit Kit can also be installed by Capital Safety during the annual service of the unit by Capital Safety.

Capital Safety will cover the cost of the Retrofit Kit in all cases, including all costs of shipping and installation of the Impact Guard. Normal repair costs will apply to the repair of any damage to a Tension Limiter.

The attached single page instruction sets out a very simple procedure for installing the Retrofit Kit. The installation process requires replacement of only two housing bolts and can easily be completed in less than five minutes. Installation of the Impact Guard does not affect the operation of the Tension Limiter.

Please direct any questions you may have to Craig Firl, North American Technical Manager, at 800-328-6146 ext 6221, or you can email your inquiry directly to TL3@capitalsafety.com.

15 May, 2015