



Re: Recall/Replacement Notice for the DBI-SALA Lad-Saf Sleeve

Date: September 2, 2016

We write in response to your inquiry regarding the Product Stop Use and Recall/Replacement Notice for the DBI-SALA Lad-Saf Sleeve issued by 3M on August 30, 2016 (<http://www.capitalsafety.com/en-us/Pages/News-Lad-Saf-Sleeve-Voluntary-Recall.aspx>). As you know, the Notice advises users that they must immediately identify, stop use, and quarantine all original DBI-SALA Lad-Saf sleeves, and that 3M will provide next generation Lad-Saf X2 and/or X3 sleeves as replacement products.

We understand that you have received the Notice but have not yet received the replacement products necessary for your operation. You have inquired about continuing to use the original Lad-Saf sleeves in the interim while you wait for the replacement sleeves.

The recall is important to us, and while we cannot withdraw the Notice, we do understand your situation. The original Lad-Saf sleeve functions properly when applied and used in accordance with our user instructions. The present recall does not arise out of a government enforcement action or out of concerns for non-performance in the ordinary and proper use of the product. Rather, it arises from specific product misuse scenarios that we identified as a part of our own product review.

Our intent is to replace the original Lad-Saf sleeve in the field with the new Lad-Saf X2 and/or X3 products as soon as possible, as those re-designed products contain important safety enhancements. Of course, you are also free to use other equipment to meet your immediate needs, including options from competitors. While we must advise you to cease all use of the original Lad-Saf sleeves, should you assess your immediate needs and determine in the interim to continue use, we urge you to take the following steps at a minimum to assure that all users understand the proper use of the original Lad-Saf sleeve and the misuse scenarios identified in the Notice:

1. Immediately contact 3M Fall Protection at 1-800-328-6146 ext. 2012 to register for replacement product. We will notify you when replacement product is about to ship.
2. Immediately inspect each original Lad-Saf sleeve in your possession and do not allow anyone to use a sleeve until it has been inspected by a certified Competent Person.
3. Immediately notify all employees, subcontractors, and independent contractors who may use one of your original Lad-Saf sleeves of the following potential misuse scenarios:

- The sleeve's anti-inversion mechanism will be defeated by the user in the event of an improper upside-down installation. If the sleeve is installed upside-down, the brake will not engage in the event of a fall, and could result in serious injury or death.
 - Clothing, cords, lanyards, and other materials can become tangled up with the brake mechanism or the handle of the sleeve, and can interfere with the sleeve's braking mechanism. This will hinder the sleeve's ability to arrest a fall and could result in serious injury or death.
 - The braking mechanism can be defeated if the user grabs the sleeve prior to or during a fall. This can defeat the sleeve's braking mechanism and result in serious injury or death.
4. Immediately provide the *Training Guidelines for DBI-SALA Lad Saf Flexible Cable Ladder Safety System* (attached) to all potential users of original Lad-Saf sleeves and provide training on the warnings, installation, and use of the system and sleeve in accordance with those instructions. Proper training greatly increases worker safety at height and reduces the risk of product misuse.
 5. Return your original Lad-Saf sleeves to 3M within 3 days of obtaining the replacement product, Lad-Saf X2 and/or X3.

Thank you for partnering with us in the implementation of this important safety initiative. Please call 1-800-328-6146 ext. 2012 if we can provide further guidance or assistance.

Guidelines for Use of DBI-SALA Lad-Saf Flexible Cable Ladder Safety System

Form no. 5908027 Rev. A

The following guidelines must be used in conjunction with the Lad Saf ladder safety system user instructions and the original Lad Saf Cable Sleeve user instructions.

**WARNING**

- **INTERFERENCE: Do not interfere with the sleeve's brake mechanism.** Interference with the single braking mechanism of the sleeve can defeat the brake and cause SERIOUS INJURY or DEATH in the event of a fall from height.
 - Make sure there is no interference with the sleeve's brake mechanism by clothing, cords, lanyards, or other materials;
 - Make sure nothing gets tangled up with the brake mechanism or the handle of the sleeve, or lodged behind the upper roller arm between the brake shoe and the cable, such that the brake mechanism cannot engage in a fall event;
 - If the handle of the sleeve is restricted from moving downward (into locked position), the sleeve will not engage and lock onto the cable;

- **PANIC GRAB: Do not grab the sleeve prior to or during a fall event.** This can defeat the sleeve's brake mechanism. Defeating the single braking mechanism of the sleeve can cause SERIOUS INJURY or DEATH in the event of a fall from height.

- **INVERSION: Do not install the sleeve upside down on the cable.** This will defeat the sleeve's brake mechanism and cause SERIOUS INJURY or DEATH in the event of a fall from height.
 - The sleeve must be positioned with the arrow pointing in the ascending direction;
 - Installing the sleeve upside down defeats the sleeve's brake mechanism;
 - The sleeve will immediately lock onto the cable if the user tries to climb with the sleeve upside down, but the sleeve will NOT lock onto the cable if the user falls from height with the sleeve installed upside down on the cable.

INSPECTION GUIDELINES FOR THE LAD-SAF FLEXIBLE CABLE SYSTEM INSTALLTION:

1. Inspect the top and bottom brackets for damage, corrosion, or rust. Look for cracks, bends, or wear that could affect the strength and operation of the system. Inspect for loose or missing fasteners; retighten or replace then if necessary.
2. Inspect the cable guides. Ensure the cable guide is not worn or bent, and still locks onto the cable. Inspect for loose or missing fasteners; retighten or replace them if necessary.
3. Inspect the carrier cable for damage. Look for work or broken cable strands. Inspect for signs of abrasion against the ladder or structure. The cable must not contact the ladder or structure. Replace damaged cable if necessary. Check the carrier cable tension, ensuring there is no slack. Re-tension the carrier cable if necessary.

Guidelines for Use of DBI-SALA Lad-Saf Flexible Cable Ladder Safety System

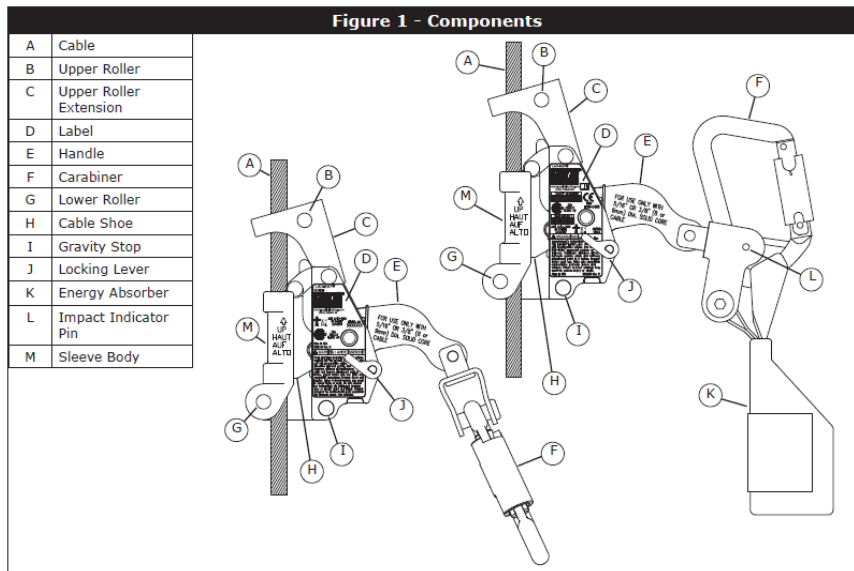
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4. Inspect the ladder structure for damage, rust, or deterioration that could affect the strength of the ladder.
5. Inspect the installation and service label. The label should be securely held in place and fully legible. Record inspection dates on the system label.

Inspect the Lad-Saf flexible cable system before each use, and at least annually by a competent person. Use appropriate fall protection when inspecting system. If system fails inspection, tag system as not useable. Do not use system until repaired and system passes inspection.

INSPECTION GUIDELINES FOR CABLE SLEEVE:

1. Inspect the handle (1E) and the cable shoe (1H) for bends, cracks, and deformities. All fasteners must be securely attached. Operation of handle and cable shoe must be free and smooth. Springs must be secure and of sufficient strength to pull handle down.
2. Inspect the locking lever (1J) for smooth operation, ensuring it springs into its locked position when released.
3. Inspect the sleeve body (1M) for wear on the inside where the cable passes through.
4. Inspect the impact indicator (1L). If the indicator pin is missing or damaged, the sleeve should not be used until the pin is replaced.
5. Inspect the energy absorber (1K) to determine it has not been activated. Then energy absorber cover should be secure and free of tears or damage.





Inspect the cable sleeve before each use, and at least annually by a competent person. If cable sleeve fails inspection, remove from service and do not use sleeve. Failure to do so may lead to **SERIOUS INJURY or **DEATH**.**

WARNING

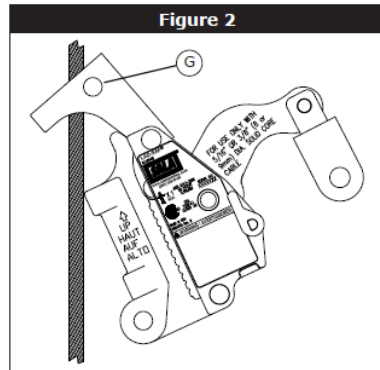
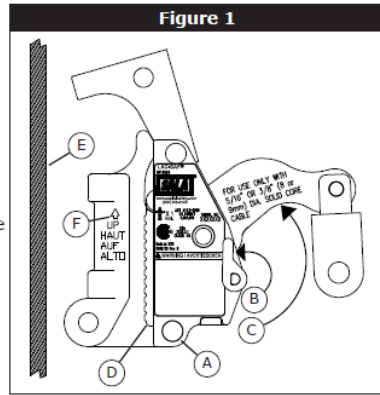
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OPERATION AND USE OF THE LADDER SAFETY SYSTEM (CABLE SLEEVE AND SYSTEM)

Train all users of the system on the operation and use of the system. Document all training using the attached training log.

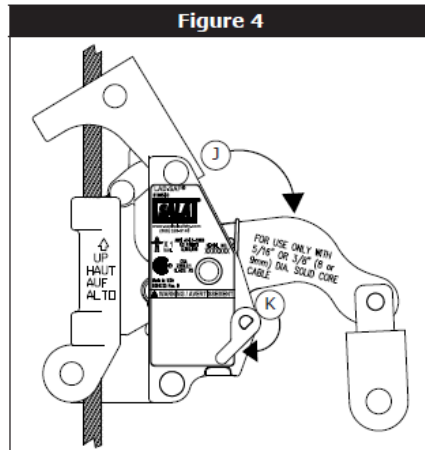
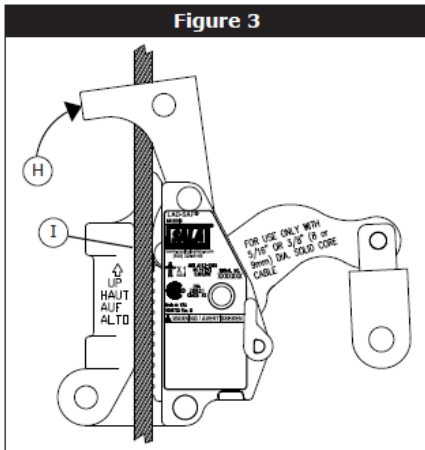
- Step 1.** Ensure the sleeve is correctly positioned relative to the carrier cable (Figure 1). The "up" arrow on the sleeve must be pointing to the ascending direction (1F). The detachable safety sleeve includes a gravity stop (1A) to reduce the possibility of installing the sleeve upside-down.
- Step 2.** Rotate the locking lever (1B) and pivot the handle (1C) to its full upright position (Figure 2). This will draw back the cable shoe (1D) to allow insertion of the carrier cable (1E) into the sleeve housing. The locking lever is on both sides of the Detachable Cable Sleeve for right or left hand operation.
- Step 3.** Hold the sleeve upright and place the upper roller (2G) onto the cable. See Figure 2.
- Step 4.** Push back the upper roller extension (3H) and insert the cable through the slot on the side of the sleeve (3I). Position the cable in the sleeve recess (Figure 3). Release the handle (4J) to lock the sleeve on the cable (see Figure 4). The locking lever (4K) should snap back to the locked position.
- Step 5.** Verify that the locking mechanism is properly engaged:
 1. Rotate the locking lever to the full upright position and then release it, allowing the locking lever to spring back to its locked position.



IMPORTANT: If the locking lever does not return to the locked position, the LAD-SAF sleeve must be removed from service.

2. Without rotating the locking lever, verify that the sleeve is secure on the carrier cable by raising the sleeve arm until it stops and locks just beyond the horizontal position.

NOTE: If locking lever operation is no longer smooth, lightly lubricate the locking lever mechanism with WD-40 or equivalent.



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WARNING

Always use the carabiner or snap hook connector supplied with the sleeve to connect the sleeve to the full body harness. Do not substitute with other connectors. When connecting, ensure the carabiner is fully closed and locked. Failure to do so may cause **SERIOUS INJURY** or **DEATH**.



WARNING

Do not use other connecting devices or combine devices such as lanyards, chain, link, clevis, etc. with the connector supplied with the sleeve. Doing so may cause **SERIOUS INJURY** or **DEATH**.



WARNING

Always use proper climbing techniques (i.e., maintain 3 points of contact with climbing structure) when climbing up or down the ladder safety system. If the sleeve locks up prematurely while climbing down, climb back up slightly to unlock the sleeve from the cable, then continue climbing down at a normal speed. Do not try to force the sleeve in a downward direction if it locks onto the cable. Forcing the sleeve in a downward direction may lead to **SERIOUS INJURY** or **DEATH**.

Contact 3M Customer Services at 1-800-328-6146 (ext. 2012), or email LADSAFNA@mmm.com to discuss any assistance you may need to conduct re-training on the proper use of the product.

