

Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA)

www.prcainfo.org

SAFETY ALERT – Unmarked Aluminum Ring (Life safety / rappel style) Failures 9/2009

PRCA Safety Alert / Technical Advisory Committee: - Safety Alert PRCA 9/2009

The purpose of the PRCA safety alerts and technical advisories is to disseminate current and recently acquired information to the industry which will aid in the prevention of accidents on ropes courses. Where possible the PRCA will provide unbiased information related to the sequence of events, materials involved and root causes of accidents or near misses. When possible the PRCA Safety Alert / Technical Advisory Committee will make appropriate contacts as necessary but the committee does not intend to perform in depth investigations into incidents, we rely upon the information provided by our members, members of the industry and other industry associations, such as the European Ropes Course Association. Email info@prcainfo.org with any questions or comments about this safety alert / technical advisory and/or notify the PRCA of other technical or safety alerts or industry product recalls.

Unmarked Aluminum Ring Failure

The PRCA has received notice from SherrillTree of a voluntary recall of Kong Bonaiti (Italy) polished aluminum rings (no color finish). Two users of unmarked small polished aluminum rings (no color finish) have experienced failure that could have led to injury. In early August in a proactive response to these incidents and inquiries Sherrill found a Kong box of small unmarked rings in their inventory. Kong had sourced these rings and they were distributed without individually testing and laser marking. Kong has confirmed that a quantity of these rings have been issued to distributors and suppliers. NOTE: Kong is not the only manufacturer of aluminum rings for life safety application / rappel that do not have a printed stamp of brand and strength.

The standard Kong Bonaiti ring has the Kong logo, strength rating and other identifying numbers laser etched on the surface of the ring. The voluntary recall rings have no Kong logo or other etched markings. See illustration following recommendations below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

If you have any of the Kong unmarked polished aluminum rings (may be spliced into rope products) it is imperative that you cease use of the product, dispose of them or submit them for replacement immediately.

Failure to do this could result in serious injury or death to the user!

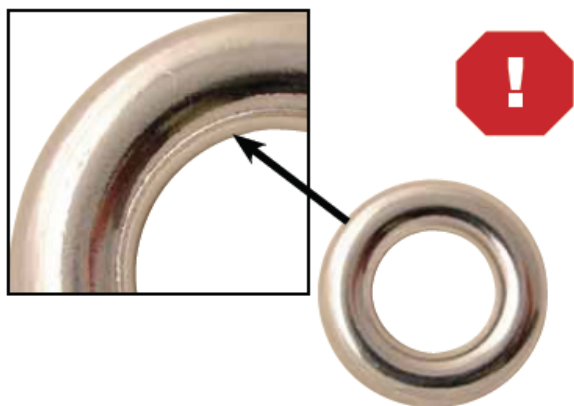
Sherrill recommends that climbers using polished aluminum rings not sourced from SherrillTree (or Vermeer dealers) and not having strength ratings inscribed contact their supplier and push for replacement. Also stating that there's great likelihood that the manufacturer of the ring in question (not Kong) exports directly or indirectly to several other suppliers. Known manufacturers NOT distributing this ring include Petzl, Buckingham, Komet and DMM. These rings may have been supplied to the climbing rope access industries in addition to the arborist industry.

SherrillTree has offered to accept and replace all recall unmarked rings purchased from SherrillTree AND similar unmarked rings purchased elsewhere with the proper individually tested/marked product free of charge.

To view the full text of the recall and replacement offer go to:

<http://www.sherrilltree.com/Product-Recall>

Illustration provided by Sherrill Tree:



The ring being recalled is polished aluminum (having no color finish) and WITHOUT laser-etched logo or rating on one side.

OK



This polished aluminum ring with laser-etched rating and logo has been individually tested and meets ANSI standards.