

(EN) Instruction Manual for CARABINERS/SNAP HOOKS acc. to EN 362:2004 Classes A/B/T and SCREW LINK acc. to EN 362:2004 Class Q





















































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Thank you for choosing VERTIQUAL! You have just purchased a high quality product that will reliably protect you and will be your companion for a long time when working at heights and depths.

This instructions must be read and understood before using the product. This PPEaF (Personal Protective Equipment against Falls) will be used along with other equippment, thus forming a system for working at heights. Please read the instructions of each component of the system before use, checking for compatibility and correct use!

Following the instructions is essential for user's safety! Failure to do so can result in serious or even fatal accidents. Keep the instructions with the product, handy and accessible to all users, so you can consult them whenever needed!

WARNING! These instructions are a basic comprehensive guide to the safe use of the purchased equipment. They contain general information about the product, intended to help the user, but cannot cover all the situations that may occur in the daily activities and cannot in any case replace the specialized training courses for safety at heights. This PPE against falls from a height can only be used by well-trained users, who are familiar with the relevant legislation and who have successfully completed a special safety training course for working at heights.

WARNING! Working at heights requieres good health (seek medical approoval) and adequate training for the correct use of this PPEaF, for rescue and providing first aid in case of necessity and for the correct assessment of risks and dangers associated with working at heights for your workplace(s). For works with risk of falling from heights or in depths, a risk assessment must be carried out in advance according to the current regulations and legal provisions (EN standards or specific national rules) that will provide adequate measures for protection and rescue! Working at height or depth can be done only in teams of **at least two persons** and work assignments must be organized so that one person can act in case of necessity or accident.

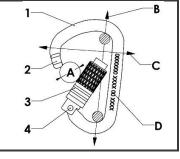
WARNING! Instructions for use are updated when technical or legislative changes occur. The lates version of the instructions overwrites previous versions and is the only valid version. Please make sure you follow the instructions of the most recent version. You can download the most recent instructions from our website www.vertiqualsafety.com by accessing the section of each product. For help or additional questions, please contact us at office@vertiqualsafety.com or Tel. (+40) 0365/882143.

DESCRIPTION: VERTIQUAL connectors are made from high tensile steel or aluminum alloy and allow a safe and fast connection to other components for working at heights. There are various shapes and sizes that can be chosen to suit a specific application. The connectors can be either detachable (classes B and Q) or permanently attached to a product for working at heights (e.g. a shock absorbing lanyard) having a separate eyelet for this purpose (classes A and T). The gate is the element that allows the connecting / disconnecting and stays in a normally closed position which will need several deliberate user actions in order to open. The class Q screw-link has a simple nut-gate for connecting / disconnecting and it is recommended in applications where opening/closing of the nut-gate is not needed frequently.

PURPOSE: Vertiqual **snap hooks** and **carabiners** are designed to be used as **connectors** in fall arrest systems, restraint systems, work positioning systems, rope access systems, or rescue systems and are meant to be used with other certified components for working at heights.

COMPONENTS / MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- 1 Carabiner body (frame)
- 2 Nose
- 3 Gate and locking gear (spring loaded in "closed" position with manual / automatic locking)
- 4 Rivet(s)
- A Max. gate opening: maximum gap possible for attaching to a given element [mm]
- B Major Axis (maximum strength is achieved when loading on this axis with the gate closed and locked correctly)
- C Minor Axis (WARNING! loading on this axis will decrease overall strength)
- D Marking



MARKING

- manufacturer identification: "VERTIQUAL"
- model identification: e.g. "523 / TOUR"
- "read instructions before use" icon: (iii
- CE marking and ID No. of the Notified Body: e.g. C € 0321
- European Norm (EN number: year of issue / Class): e.g. EN 362:2004 / B
- Batch No. / other method of identification / date of manufacture
- Minimum Breaking Strength on the Major Axis
- A
- Minimum Breaking Strength on the minor Axis
- Minimum Breaking Strength with gate opened
- *NOTE: some of these elements of the marking can be found in different places on the carabiner (check both sides of the carabiner when reading the marking)

LIMITATIONS / IMPORTANT RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN USING THIS PRODUCTS:

- Manual locking (SCREW locking) connectors shall NOT be used at workplaces where the user must connect/disconnect frequently!
- Make sure that there are NO elements that can rub or put pressure on the gate while in use, thus causing damage to it or even accidental unlocking!
- If a connector has been involved in a fall arrest it must be immediately withdrawn from use!
- It is strictly forbidden to hoist materials or weights using this connectors! (e.g. to hoist construction materials up or down);

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Take into account the length of the connectors used and check with the instructions of the other components of your system not to exceed any length limitation! (e.g. EN 354 lanyards must have max. 2m length including its connectors);

- Check the shape and size of the elements that connectors are attached to (e.g. attaching to wide webbings can distribute the load differently and decrease the strength of the connector). WARNING! Do NOT attach the connector to elements/structures that have sharp edges!
- Corrosive environments: using these connectors in corrosive environments (e.g. near sea water) may require more frequent inspections and checks to make sure that corrosion has not affected the strength of this product and its capability to protect the user!
- Electrical and chemical hazards: Do not install this connectors in places where they can come in contact with electric power lines, acid solutions and caustic chemicals!
- Other hazards include, but are not limited to: severe heat, severe cold, corrosive fluids, abrasive surfaces, sharp edges and moving parts of nearby machinery. Contact VERTIQUAL or reseller if you have any doubts before use!
- Training: This equipment will be used only by persons who have been properly trained for working at heights and in this product's correct use!
- A rescue plan must be made before starting the work for each specific workplace!
- Check the compatibility of this connectors with the other components (equipment) used! Examples of components that can be used with this connectors:

EN 361 – full body harnesses (fall arrest systems);

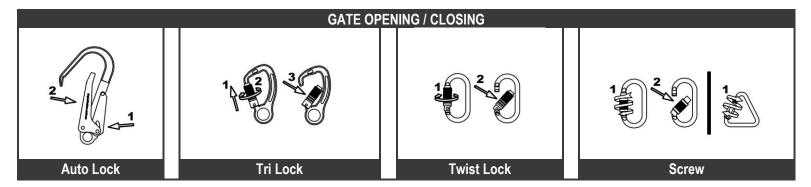
EN 353-1, EN 353-2, EN 355, EN 354 and EN 360 - fall arrest devices and lanyards with energy absorber;

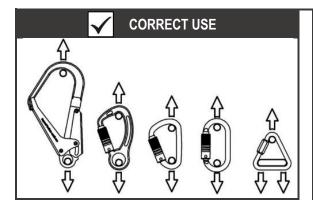
EN 341 – rescue equipment;

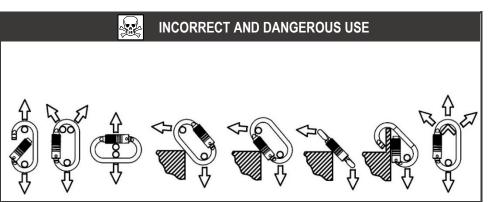
EN 358 – work positioning equipment

EN 813 – sit harnesses (rope access systems)

EN 795 – anchor devices:







BEFORE EACH USE a close visual inspection of the snap hook must be carried out, to identify mechanical, chemical damage that can affect safety (NOTE: Damage to the snap hook can be inflicted without user/owner knowledge, e.g. negligence of a co-worker). Check carefully all components of the snap hook for cracks, bends, shape distortions, sharp edges, rivet heads thinning due to abrasion, dents or grooves and the functionality of the gate (gate must fully close and lock without any difficulty!). WARNING! If any damage is identified it must be immediately withdrawn from use. If there is any doubt regarding the safe operation of the carabiner after the visual inspection DO NOT USE IT! (Instead send it for inspection to the manufacturer or to an authorized representative of the manufacturer).

DURING USE the snap hook must have the gate always closed and locked! For your safety, make sure the gate is closed and the screw is tightened (screw lock), the gate is automatically closed and securely locked (Twist lock, Tri lock, Auto lock). For screw link connectors (Delta link) the nut / gate must be locked and tightened with 3 Nm. Connectors shall not get in contact with acids, solvents, bases, open fire, electric arc, intense hot metal splash and sharp edges. If there is any doubt regarding conditions of use contact the manufacturer /distributor.

WARNING! Make sure that in use, other elements present at the workplace (e.g. beams, edges, pipes, other ropes etc.) cannot rub or put pressure on the gate thus causing damage to it or even accidental unlocking of the gate!

STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION: Store unpacked in a cool, dry, dark place away from excessive heat or heat sources, high humidity, sharp edges, corrosive agents or other possible causes of damage. **Do not store wet!** Care must be taken not to inflict any damage to the connectors during transportation! It is recommended they are packed individually to avoid surface damages and none of the damaging factors mentioned above must not come in contact with the connectors during transport.

MAINTENANCE: Wash in warm water of domestic supply quality (maximum temperature 40 °C). To clean effectively is possible to use a soft brush or a soft sponge. Cleaning using pressurized water is forbidden! (e.g. pressure washer pump). Rinse and dry naturally in a warm room away from direct heat sources. Lubricate the gate mechanism with a silicone based lubricant. This should be carried out after cleaning. Note: Cleaning and lubrication is recommended after every use in marine environment.

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INSPECTIONS: The equipment must be inspected at least once every 12 months or whenever necessary, depending on the working conditions and frequency of use. If this equipment was involved in an incident (even a minor one) it is compulsory to send it for inspection! These inspections can be performed only by the manufacturer or a competent center authorized by the manufacturer.

If the inspections / revisions are performed by persons that do NOT have written authorization from the manufacturer, the equipment loses its warranty and the manufacturer declines any responsibility for it!

SERVICE LIFE: The snap hooks /carabiners have UNLIMITED service life as long as its condition is proven to be SAFE before using it. Besides the PERIODIC INSPECTIONS, every user must perform its own visual inspection BEFORE EACH USE! (*check BEFORE EACH USE section for more details).

WARRANTY AND LIABILITY! The manufacturer warrants its products for a period of 24 months from the date of purchase. This date and the date of first use must be recorded in the Inspection log. The guarantee and liability is applicable only for material or manufacturing defects. Damage resulting from normal wear and tear, corrosion, poor maintenance, negligence, accidents, fall arrest, tampering with the equipment and use of the equipment for other purposes rather than the one prescribed by these instructions, are not covered by the warranty. The warranty does NOT cover the springs of the locking mechanism (the gate) as this can be damaged without visible clues by incorrect storing and use. Warranty & liability claims apply only to the product. Claims of direct involved persons or third parties, for consequential damages resulting directly or indirectly from the use of this equipment are hereby strictly excluded and rejected. The user must be informed regarding the dangers of work at heights and depths. He should be aware of the risks and is the only responsible for eventual damage, accidents or even death which may result from the use of this equipment. If the user is unable to do so or if he does not have the competence to do so, he cannot use this PPE. Vertiqual accepts no liability claims for direct, indirect, accidental or consequential damages resulting from the use of the fall arrest PPE.

EC type inspection is carried out by: SATRA- European Notified Body 0321, SATRA Technology Centre (Wyndham Way, Telford Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8SD, United Kingdom) / SATRA Technology Europe Ltd - NB 2777 (Bracetown Business Park, Clonee, Dublin 15 Dublin, Ireland) & INCDPM Institute for Research and Development in Labour Safety and Protection – Bucharest. European Notified Body no. 2756.

The Declarations of Conformity can be downloaded easily from our web-site: www.vertiqualsafety.com by accessing the dedicated section of each product.

| | | INSPECTION LOG | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Product: Owner / Company: | | | |
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| Inspection date | Results of the inspection | | Signature of the inspector |
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