Buckingham
MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

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PO Box 1690
Binghamton, NY 13902

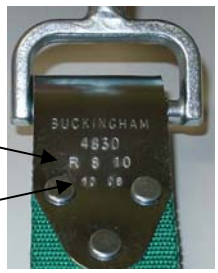
Equipment For People
Working In High Locations

Inspection Notice

Subject: 'BuckSqueeze' Wood Pole Fall Restrict Device (P/N 483D/484T Series) Units Covered By This Notice Are Dated 7/09 Through 11/10

What You the Customer Need to Do Regarding This Notice:

1. Does your BuckSqueeze unit have a manufacture or rework date between 7/09 and 11/10? If yes, proceed to number 2. If not, your unit is not subject to this Important Notice. Note: Date and rework date is stamped on the pole snap clip. The rework date is prefixed with an 'R' [See Fig. at right].
2. Return all units with friction buckles that have the 222052 marking on the frame [See Fig. 5] to Buckingham for friction buckle change out. (see **'What Should I Do?'** outlined below). NOTE: Less than 250 of these units are in the field, therefore it is unlikely one of these is in your possession.
3. Gauge the friction buckle on all other units dated between 7/09 and 11/10 by the outlined Inspection Procedure. (see **Inspection Procedure** outlined below and in video).



NOTE: All WPFRD Units Marked With A Manufacture Date Prior To 07/09 And Those Marked With A Manufacture Date Of 12/10 Or Later Are Not Subject To This Notice.

Dear Buckingham Customer:

It was recently brought to our attention that a P/N 483D series Wood Pole Fall Restrict Device (dated 08/10) had the slide bar of the friction buckle (see Fig. 1), which attaches the green woven strap (see Fig. 2), disengage from the assembly (see Fig. 3). The user was removing a twist in the woven strap while preparing his equipment for use. **The potential for this disengagement occurs only when there is no tension on the woven strap** and a combination of factors exists. These factors include the slide bar rotation to a sharp angle, the BuckSqueeze woven strap becoming extremely worn and twisted, no tension on the woven strap and forging and manufacturing tolerances reaching high limits. A very small number (sample estimation indicates less than 0.1%) of these friction buckles, have the potential for this defined disengagement.

No one was injured due to this occurrence. To date, we have had only one reported incident. This slide bar in conjunction with the buckle frame is the adjustment mechanism for the woven strap and instrumental in maintaining user attachment to the fall protection system during use.

Fig. 1

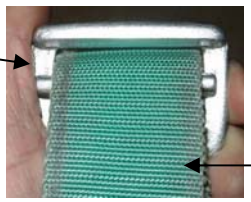


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

This **Notice** pertains to P/N 483D and 484T series Wood Pole Fall Restrict Devices manufactured or returned for enhancement and maintenance updates only between 07/09 and 11/10. The date of manufacture for this product is located on the metal clip on the pole snap hook end of the green or yellow woven strap (see Fig. 4). The enhancement and maintenance update date is located above the manufacture date and prefixed with 'R' (see Fig. 4).

*** Additionally, this Notice includes units that utilize a friction buckle with the marking 222052 across the top of the bar (see Fig. 5) and used in the manufacture of approximately 250 units dated 6/10 through 11/10. Units that contain the buckle marked 222052 must be returned to Buckingham for friction buckle replacement.***

NOTE: The potential for the slide bar of the friction buckle (see Fig. 1), which attaches the green woven strap, to disengage can occur only when there is no tension on the woven strap.

Rework Date Denoted By 'R' Prefix

Original Product Manufacture Date

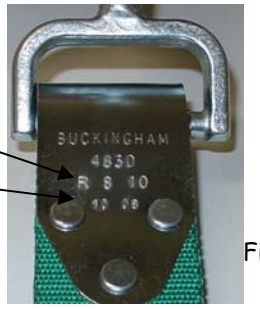


Fig. 4

222052 Marking

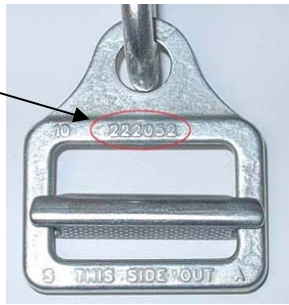


Fig. 5

<u>What May Happen If You Use The Products Identified Above?</u> Although remote, there is a possibility that the slide bar of the friction buckle may detach from the frame when the strap is not under tension, is twisted and if wear and slide bar positioning conditions coincide (see Fig. 6, 7 and 8). This occurrence could allow the woven strap to detach from the assembly (see Fig. 9) resulting in the user no longer being fall protected.

Slide Bar Positioned Diagonally

Strap Twisted

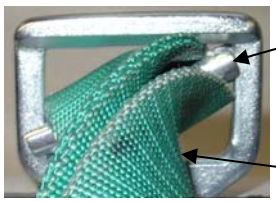


Fig. 6

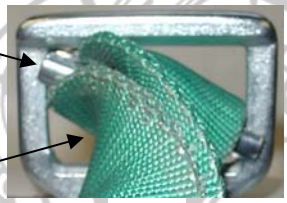
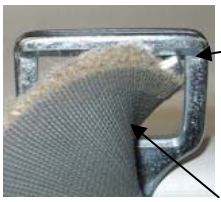


Fig. 7



Slide Bar Positioned Diagonally

Strap Twisted

Worn Strap

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Slide Bar Positioned Diagonally And Detached From Frame

<u>What Should I Do</u>?

1. **Immediately notify all users of a P/N 483D/484T series Wood Pole Fall Restrict Device of this information.**
2. **Immediately inspect all P/N 483D/484T series Wood Pole Fall Restrict Devices manufactured or returned for enhancement and maintenance updates between <u>07/09</u> and <u>11/10</u> (see date location above in Fig. 4) within your possession in accordance to the '<u>Inspection Criteria</u>' attached to this Notice. *Note:* If unsure of the guidance provided, Buckingham or your local Buckingham representative will be pleased to inspect your unit(s) at no cost to you.**
3. **Return all units that contain the buckle marked 222052 to Buckingham for friction buckle replacement.**
4. **Contact Buckingham Manufacturing Customer Service at 1-800-937-2825 for a Return Goods Authorization number for product found with the conditions outlined for rework and quick return at no cost to you.**

If you have any questions concerning this **Notice**, please contact Buckingham Manufacturing Co. at 1-800-937-2825 or e-mail us at sales@buckinghammfg.com.

Note: All subject item units marked with a manufacture date prior to 07/09 and 12/10 or later, are not subject to this **Notice**.

We regret any inconvenience this issue may cause you and your company and thank you for your assistance in aiding us in resolving the same. As a world leader of fall protection equipment, Buckingham remains committed to providing its customers with a quality product that allows them to carry out their profession in a safe manner.

Buckingham Mfg. Co., Inc.

Binghamton, NY 13902

800-937-2825

sales@buckinghammfg.com

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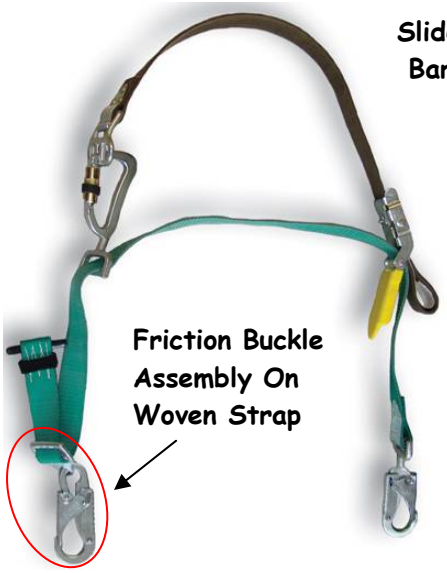
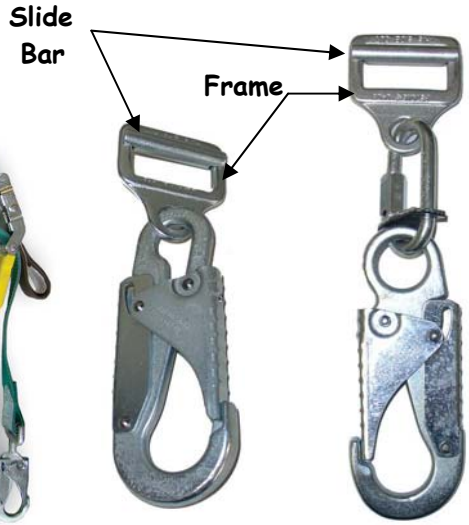
Buckingham Mfg. Co.

BUCKSQUEEZE FRICTION BUCKLE FIELD INSPECTION

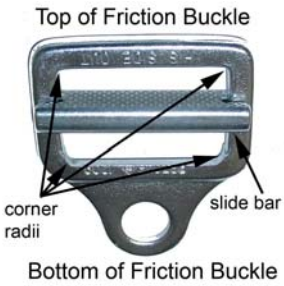
This Notice is for all BuckSqueeze Models (483D / 484T Series) Dated Between 7/09 and 11/10



BuckSqueeze Assembly



Buckle / Snap Combinations



Friction Buckle

Friction Buckle Gauge

This field inspection is intended to be performed using the friction buckle inspection gauge shown above for the purpose of determining out of specification friction buckles. This gauge will be provided to you by Buckingham Mfg. at no cost.

Note: If you are not confident that you can accurately complete this inspection following the procedure below, Buckingham or your local Buckingham representative will be pleased to inspect your 'BuckSqueeze at no cost to you.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE:

1. Grasp friction buckle in one hand with the lettering on the buckle facing up (Fig. 10).

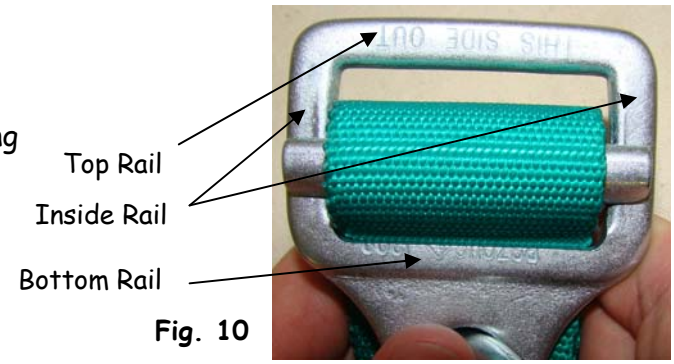


Fig. 10

2. Squeeze both layers of woven material together underneath the friction buckle to create a tight loop around the slide bar.

3. Move the slide bar with looped webbing to the bottom of the friction buckle frame as shown (Fig. 11).

Fig. 11

4. Attempt to insert the inspection gauge into the inside horizontal opening of the friction buckle approximately 3/16" down from the top rail. Do not insert the gauge into the corner radii. The gauge must be aligned perpendicular to the inside rails of the buckle in order to obtain an accurate reading (Fig. 12a & 12b).

If the inspection gauge falls into the opening of the buckle the unit needs to be removed from service and returned to Buckingham for friction buckle replacement.

Fig. 12a
Buckle Passes Inspection If Gauge Does Not Fall Into Friction Buckle Opening

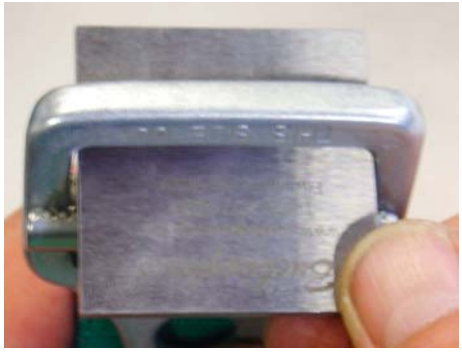


Fig. 12b
Buckle Fails Inspection If Gauge Falls Into Friction Buckle Opening

Note: Gauge must be perpendicular to inside rails of buckle. Failure to do so may result in an acceptable friction buckle being rejected. Refer to figures 13a & 13b for clarity.

Fig. 13a
Correct Method - Gauge aligned perpendicular

Fig. 13b
Incorrect method - Gauge aligned at an angle

5. Move the slide bar with looped webbing to the top of the friction buckle frame as shown (Fig. 14).

Fig. 14

6. Attempt to insert the inspection gauge into the inside horizontal opening of the friction buckle approximately 3/16" up from the bottom rail. Do not insert the gauge into the corner radii. The gauge must be aligned perpendicular to the inside rails of the buckle in order to obtain an accurate reading. (Fig. 15a & 15b).

If the inspection gauge falls into the opening of the buckle (either on top or below the slide bar) the unit needs to be removed from service and returned to Buckingham for friction buckle replacement.

Fig. 15a
Buckle Passes Inspection If Gauge Does Not Fall Into Friction Buckle Opening

Fig. 15b
Buckle Fails Inspection If Gauge Falls Into Friction Buckle Opening

Note: Units That Pass Inspection Are Acceptable for Continued Use.

Once the unit passes this inspection, Buckingham suggests that it be marked with a permanent marker on the inside of the woven webbing near the pole snap using the letter 'I' and the date of inspection (Fig. 16). This will eliminate any future concerns as to whether a particular unit has been inspected.

Fig. 16

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