

Eisenberg, 12.07.2016

Retrofit solution for harnesses affected by the safety note published on June 7th 2016

Since we published the safety note mentioned above, we have carried out extensive material analyses and conducted dedicated cause studies. Unfortunately we can't come up with a satisfactory solution for all our customers, yet, as a replacement of the complete buckle is impossible.

The manufacturer Finsterwalder offers a reworking measure for the affected buckles, which we regard insufficient for several reasons:

Finsterwalder has determined a new service life for the buckles of 8 respectively 10 years as of the harness' year of manufacture. Most of the harnesses affected are even older than the newly determined life-span. Furthermore the wear of these buckles varies depending on the use of the harness - it can be more or less completely irrespective of how old the harness is.

In order to make it possible to use the affected harnesses again until a final solution is found, we offer an additional belt to safeguard the breast-belt buckles. This breast-belt is available in our online store for 9,- € including shipping. As an alternative you may as well use a climbing band sling of 60cm length and a strength of min. 15 kilonewton.

You may use again the following harnesses **with one of the mentioned additional breast belts**:

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|--------------------------|---|
| • Magic / Magic 2000 | certification number MZL GS-03-178-97 (only harness with dropout safeguard) |
| • Flow | certification number MZL GS-03-218-00 |
| • Flexon / Flexon Airbag | certification number DHV GS-03-0241-01, GS-03-0242-01 |
| • Spider | certification number DHV GS-03-0323-05 |
| • Geko | certification number DHV GS-03-0342-06 |
| • Flash / Flash Cygnus | certification number DHV GS-03-0314-06, GS-03-0341-06 |
| • Duo | certification number DHV GS-0355-07 |

A manual for the assembly is available for download on <http://www.independence.aero/en/service/downloads.html>

All other harnesses mentioned in the safety note from June 7th, are **old models without dropout safeguards**. These unfortunately may not be used anymore. We kindly ask owners of such harnesses to contact us.

At independence we attach high importance to the careful selection of material and fittings. That is why we deliberately chose and continue to choose buckles by European manufacturers like Finsterwalder. We have been using the affected buckles Click-Lock and T-Lock for more than 20 years and they are reckoned safe and reliable. The more annoying it is, that after so many years such a safety-related problem occurs.

We apologize to all concerned pilots for the troubles caused.

As soon as further details and solutions come up, we will publish them immediately.

Stefan Kurrle, managing director

Fly-market Flugsport-Zubehör GmbH & Co. KG
Am Schönebach 3
87637 Eisenberg, Germany

eMail info@independence.aero
Tel. +49-(0)8364-98330
Fax +49-(0)8364-983333