



3/31/21

TO: All Ropes Course Industry Partners  
FROM: Professional Ropes Course Association Safety Committee  
RE: Hubbell Utility Solutions Incorporated – Multiple Product Use Safety Advisory

Recently a member of the Safety Committee was contacted by a challenge course which was questioning the continued use of StrandVise® style deadend device terminations being used on belays (lifeline applications).

Since the 2007 MacLean Power advisory prohibiting their use, even with back-up, several vendors/operations have been continuing to install/use deadend style devices on courses. The ACCT 8/7/07 StrandVise® Update contained a statement that “one automatic dead-end manufacturer knows that their hardware is being used in the challenge course industry and, after conducting their own in-house testing, has not expressed any concern to the vendors who have contacted them directly.”

The deadend device being questioned was produced through the Hubbell Utility Solutions companies (Hubbell Power Systems (HPS), Fargo, Chance or Anderson).

Hubbell was contacted and clearly stated that their deadends and other like products are intended for use on guy strand style cables (e.g. 1x8, 1x19) not on galvanized or swagged aircraft type cable (e.g. 7x16, 6x26) at all. This information was preliminarily announced at the PRCA conference but was not widely disseminated at that time as we were awaiting the full Hubbell letter of 3/17/21.

In their current 3/17/21 letter Hubbell clearly states that they have never approved these or the other products identified in their letter, for use in the ropes/challenge course industry, as applications or as components of life safety applications even with back-up.

During the course of the conversations with Hubbell they determined that other of their products were also being used in the ropes/challenge course industry. They reviewed the various uses and found several other serious misuses, including pole bands and suspension clamps. The one use that they did not have issue with was that of ground anchors, if properly installed according to manufacturer specifications and tested.

Hubbell Utility Solutions has stated that these products may be subjected to forces and stresses they were not originally designed for and could fail resulting in serious injury or death.

**PROFESSIONAL ROPES COURSE ASSOCIATION**

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They further clearly state that they must not be used in rope/challenge course, aerial adventure, canopy tour and zip line applications and any existing usage should be immediately discontinued.

If you wish to have deadend style device in your cable terminations the Gripple Ltd. company has produced, tested and approved Gripple Lockable Wire Rope Grip specifically for the rope/challenge course industry for use on element or life safety cables. They can also be removed easily and reused. We know of courses that have had these in place since 2010 and they are still functioning as intended.

Both the issues of pole bands and suspension clamps, already have tried and true methods that address the needs for these various terminations, (e.g. vertical lifeline, swinging elements, etc.)

ACCT posted information and a link to a letter from Hubbell Utility Solutions regarding the use of their deadend devices. This cited letter is an incomplete advisory notice (posted in error), the attached Hubbell Utility Solutions final revised letter is from March 17, 2021.

Although we know of no recent failures of the deadends, pole bands and/or suspension clamps currently in use, the issuance of a safety advisory by a manufacturer to discontinue existing usage is a major liability issue for your facility or business. The three major international manufacturers of deadend devices, Hubbell Utility Solutions, MacLean and FastLink (China) have all stated that their devices do not belong on our industries courses or used for life support and should be removed.

If you are questioning your next steps, we recommend that you contact your facilities legal, insurance and risk management resources to determine how to proceed in addressing the continued use of these items on your courses.

You may direct any questions to [info@prcainfo.org](mailto:info@prcainfo.org)

Be Safe and Be Healthy  
PRCA Safety Committee