

User Guide, Rev. 2.1

Automatic Release Sling

P/N 6008 1680

May 2017



Record of changes

Version	Prepared		Approved	
	By	Date	By	Date
1	TK	22 Apr 2016	-	-
	Initial, draft version			
2	TK	30 Oct 2016	-	-
	Updated parts list and images			
2.1	TK	31 May 2017	QA	31 May 2017
	Updated operational procedure			

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Description

Automatic Release Sling is the worlds first automatic device developed to eliminate the high risk element during one of the most critical operations related to winching. This system allows a secure connection between the rescuer and the mountain face or other potentially hazardous rescue locations.

Using Automatic Release Sling means the helicopter is at no time firmly anchored, although the rescuer can be attached to both helicopter and the ground. The rescuer will either follow the helicopter out or be left behind on the ground. There is no 'intermediate' scenario where it is uncertain what happens. Either Automatic Release Sling karabiner is attached to the wire or not. There is no in-between; Automatic Release Sling is either connected or not.

Automatic Release Sling weighs less than 300 grams. Such extreme lightness means a unit should always be part of a rescue kit. In most of suspended operations, rescuers are dropped off at a place that is safe, meaning there is no need to be secured to both mountain and helicopter simultaneously. However, in “that one operation” in which the rescuer is in great risk of falling and needs to secure himself to both helicopter and mountain face, the new Automatic Release Sling is a critical tool ensuring safety of both the rescuer and the helicopter.

Whether the Automatic Release Sling will draw up straight, obliquely outwards, directly outward or even downward, the release mechanism will perform every time. Automatic Release Sling is essential in the two parts of the rescue operation: Pickup and Deployment.

Automatic Release Sling can be used in exposed locations, where the rescuer needs to be secured to reduce the risk of falls, for example a cliff ledge or an installation such as a power line, wind mill or the like.

Only original parts and spare parts from Lite Flite may be utilized, as use of any other parts will breach the CE type approval.

Automatic Release Sling is patented by HOLE AS (Norway).

WARNING:

Failure to observe the instructions given in this User Guide may cause the Automatic Release Sling to malfunction, with subsequent risk of serious injury or death. The user should read and understand the information supplied by the manufacturer before using the equipment.

Parts list

6008 1680	Automatic Release Sling
9001 2743	Weak link ring, 24 mm (2 pcs required)
9001 8057D	Oval aluminium karabiner, twist lock, EN362 <i>This karabiner must not be replaced by any other type</i>
9001 8018	Stainless steel karabiner, twist lock, EN362 (2 pcs required) <i>These karabiners can be replaced by similar types, at users discretion</i>

IMPORTANT: If the Automatic Release Sling has been subject to fall or overload, the Automatic Release Sling must be withdrawn from service and inspected by personnel certified by Lite Flite only.

Using Automatic Release Sling

Pre-use check

Before use, the Automatic Release Sling must be checked for any signs of damage, and karabiners must be operated to check for correct function.

- Carefully inspect the top-and bottom loops for wear and tear before attaching karabiners
- Check weak link rings for correct position and no damage
- Check hardware carefully for corrosion
- Check soft loop through small ring for wear and tear

Some degree of wear is anticipated, but if the product shows any signs of abnormal wear, tear, broken parts, bend hardware, malfunctioning hardware or anything else that is not normal, the product must immediately be withdrawn from service.

After checking and attaching the top- and bottom karabiners, close the cover carefully and attach the bottom karabiner to your hoist harness.

Operational Procedure

The following procedural steps are for information only, and provide the basic guide line only. The full procedure must be trained and understood before using the product. The latest accepted and recommended procedure can be downloaded via this link:

www.arssafety.com/procedure



A: Helicopter (top) karabiner
B: Harness (bottom) karabiner
C: Ground karabiner

Call in the helicopter

When appropriate, call in the helicopter by radio or signalling. Remove extra belays and make sure that you (and the victim) are connected by karabiner to the lower loop only. Prepare the top karabiner to attach to the helicopters hoist hook.

Connect to hoist hook

Attach the top karabiner to the hoist hook. Do not attempt to release the belay to the ground, until the slack of the hoist wire has been pulled in by the hoist operator.

Starting to lift

As soon as the slack has been picked up, you can release the ground belay. If there is any tension at this point, you may not be able to do so. Don't worry, the system will take care of the rest.

Smooth and instant release

When the tension from the helicopter hoist wire exceeds 40-60 kg, the weak links will break and the release from the ground belay will be smooth and instant.

Disconnected from ground

When disconnected from the ground, you are supported by the helicopter hoist wire.



Service interval

As a minimum, the Automatic Release Sling must be inspected every 12 months. Automatic Release Sling used in adverse and / or dirty conditions may require more frequent servicing. Remember, the user safety depends on periodic inspections that ensures correct functionality of the equipment at all times.

Servicing must be entered into the service log card, supplied from Lite Flite, or in the operators own log filing system. - Check that serial number on Automatic Release Sling and service log card is identical.

Maintenance

Maintenance is to be carried out by personnel certified by Lite Flite only. Before any maintenance task, read the applicable section(s) of the CMM (Component Maintenance Manual).

Daily maintenance

In order to maintain the quality and secure flawless function of the Automatic Release Sling, it is of utmost importance that it is well rinsed and looked after.

The Automatic Release Sling is made from high density Polyester webbing, but even the best material can degrade if not properly maintained. If the Automatic Release Sling shows any sign of abnormal action or is damaged in any way or stitch patterns are broken, have a certified technician inspect it according to the CMM.

Rinsing Instructions

After submerging the Automatic Release Sling into salt water or operation in salt laden atmosphere or dirty and sandy environments, it is important to follow the rinsing instructions immediately after the operation is completed.

Let the Automatic Release Sling stay in a bath of cold fresh water (max. 20°C) for at least 10 minutes, then carefully flush it with cold tap water (max. 20°C) for a minimum of 5 minutes. Rinse until the water from the lanyard system does not taste salty any more, shake it and allow the Automatic Release Sling to dry at room temperature. Do not wring, compress or machine dry the Automatic Release Sling as this will damage the fibres in the webbing.

Storage

The Automatic Release Sling may be stored in a closed cardboard box under normal warehouse conditions at room temperature and low humidity. Storage dates must be entered into the log card. The Automatic Release Sling is **not** to be stored in the same room as lead-acid batteries, other damaging acids or corrosive compounds.

Release to service

By release to service from storage, the Automatic Release Sling must be free from any defects. Service/overhaul must be entered into the log card.

Life time

The life limit is on condition, based on the results of the inspections and checks carried out according to the CMM. A maximum life time of 5 years is recommended.

Marking

All items are individually marked with:

- Product type / Name
- Product Part No.
- Serial No.
- Date of manufacture
- Nominal strength
- Max. user weight
- A pictogram prompting the user to read instructions
- The CE mark, and the number of the Notified Body
- The number of the harmonized standard(s)



Safe Working Load

Safe Working Load (SWL) for the Automatic Release Sling system is 485 lbs / 220 kg.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

This product is considered PPE. This means, that the max. user weight can not be specified higher than 1/10 of the minimum breaking strength. The minimum breaking strength of the lanyard connecting the rescuer to the *ground* is 15 kN, approx. equivalent to 1530 kg.

Simple PCDS – Personnel Carrying Device System

This product is considered PCDS. This means, that the max. user weight can not be specified higher than 1/10 of the minimum breaking strength. The minimum breaking strength of the lanyard connecting the rescuer to the *helicopter* is 22 kN, approx. equivalent to 2240 kg.

Limitations and general warnings

The product mentioned in this user guide may not be used in any other ways, or for other purposes than those mentioned.

The product mentioned in this user guide may only be used by trained personnel, or personnel under direct supervision by trained personnel.

Medical conditions

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that the personnel using this product is medically fit to do so, and that they are informed about which medical conditions to be aware of before using this equipment.

Training

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that the personnel using this product have received proper training before doing so, and that recurrent training is in place for all users in order to ensure that their level of competence is maintained.

Rescue plan

Before any operation using this product, there must be a rescue plan, which can deal with any emergencies that can arise during the use of the product. (entanglement, stuck wire etc.)

Alterations and additions

No alterations or additions may be made to this product without prior written consent by the manufacturer.

Product that have been tampered with, or is suspected to have been tampered with, must immediately be withdrawn from service and sent to the manufacturer for inspection and repair/replacement.

Repair

Repairs to the equipment are limited to the repairs mentioned in the CMM for the product.

Obtain the CMM in its latest revision from the manufacturer before any repair or maintenance other than the daily routine inspection and cleaning of the equipment.

Reselling

If the product is re-sold, the importer/reseller shall provide instructions for use, maintenance, periodic inspection, examination and repair in the language of the country in which the product is to be used. Any additional relevant information specific to the product should also be provided.

Personally Issued Equipment

Where the operator finds it practical, the product can be issued as personal equipment to a specific user. Such personally issued equipment is to be used by that one user only.

EC Declaration of Conformity

EC Declaration of Conformity



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We, Lite Flite ApS, established in the Community, declares that the new PPE :

P/N 6008 1680 Automatic Release Sling
Conforming to EN354:2010 and EN358:2009

- is in conformity with the provisions of Council Directive 89/686/EEC
- is structural identical to the PPE which is subject of EC Type Examination Certificate No. DK-0200-PPE-02039 issued by FORCE Certification A/S
- is subject to the procedure set out in Article 11 point A of Directive 89/686/EEC
- under the supervision of the notified body:

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for Lite Flite ApS, Vamdrup, Denmark, 31 May 2017



Thomas Knudstrup
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