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Dear Petzl Customer

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We have news to share with you concerning the Petzl I'D descender (red moving side-plate) that is certified "G" in accordance with NFPA 1983-2006. This device is becoming increasingly popular for rope rescue operations due to its versatility in raising, lowering, pick-off and belaying systems. For those using the I'D to belay rescue loads, it is important to know that the sheath of a kernmantle rope can be damaged and/or ruptured by the I'D in testing using the BCCTR Belay Competency Criteria (BCC)<sup>1</sup>. Due to the plasticity of rope, variable work environments, variations in rope performance characteristics and cordage finishes between manufacturers, etc. it is difficult to make precise predictions about field performance from the lab test data. However, one thing is certain: the possibility of sheath damage means that the BCC requirement of lowering the load (post-drop) with the tested rope and device (I'D L) cannot be met 100% of the time.

That said, when the belay line runs over an intermediate friction point (for example a padded cliff edge, carabiner, etc.) between the belay device and the load, the force transmitted to the belay device in case of a mainline system failure is significantly reduced. Recent testing performed on Petzl's drop tower indicates that the force transmitted to the belay device can be reduced by as much as 50%, thus greatly reducing the possibility of sheath damage.

Regardless of the belay device used, the possibility of sheath damage to the belay line (or mainline) must be considered in your rescue system analysis (e.g. additional rope may be needed to attach to the load in case of mainline failure). As always, it is the responsibility of each user to determine through careful analysis the products and systems that best suit their rope rescue needs.

**Reminder:** check our Web site [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com) regularly to find the latest versions of the instructions for use for Petzl products. If you have any questions concerning this document, please address them to Michel Goulet: [mgoulet@petzl.com](mailto:mgoulet@petzl.com) or 801 926 1500 x7227.

Best regards



Hank Moon  
Technical Information Manager  
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<sup>1</sup> Basic description of BCC: drop test consisting of a 280 kg load free-falling 1 meter onto 3 meters of 12.5 mm rope (fall factor 0.33). Maximums allowed: FASE: 1 meter; MAF: 15 kN.