



# **Safedown** *autobelay*

**USER MANUAL**

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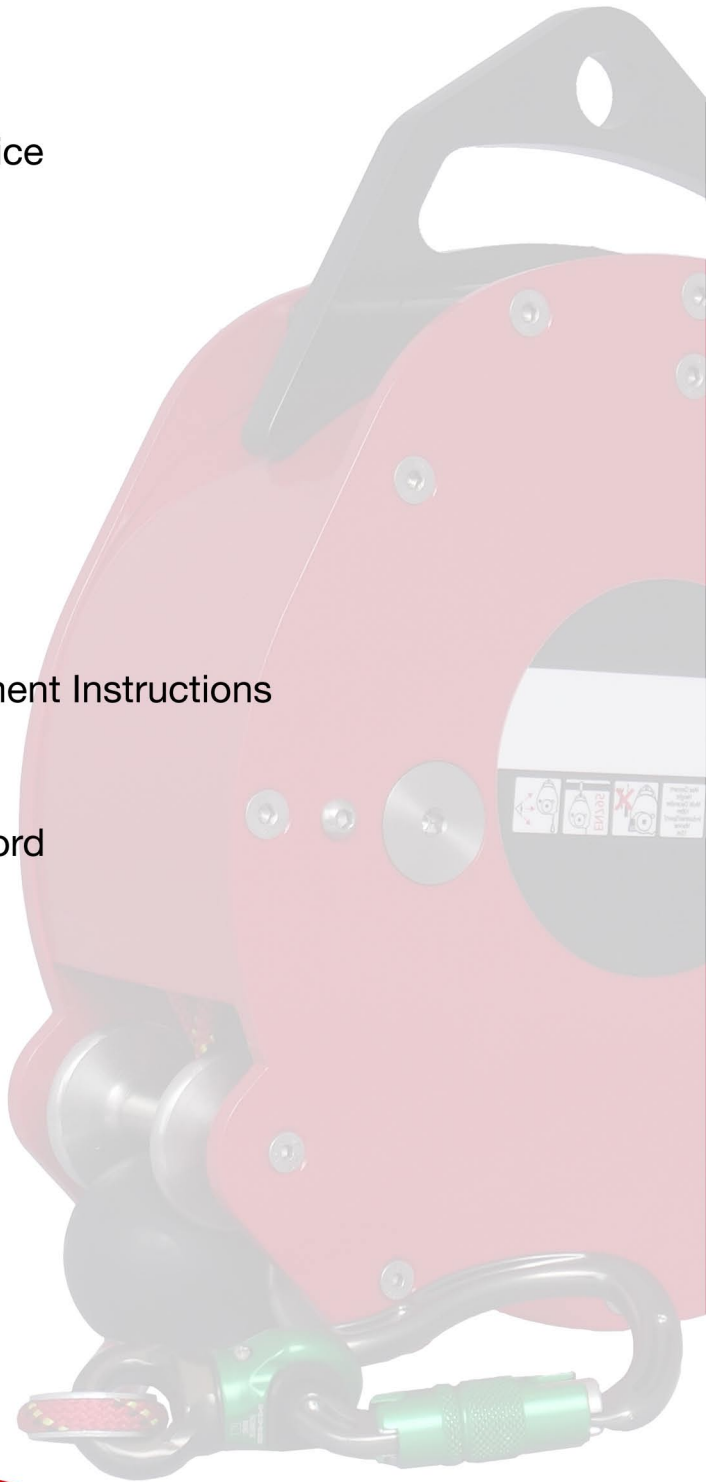
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## About This Device

The Safedown Autobelay has been designed and manufactured as a climbing wall auto belay device. The device allows for a controlled descent of less than two metres per second.

## Storage

When not in use, this device should be stored in a clean dry place where it can be protected from damage by chemical attack, sharp objects and heat. It should be stored with its instructions and inspection record card. Preservation of the original packaging is recommended to ensure the safe transit of your device when it is returned for its annual service.



## Issue

This and associated equipment must be visually inspected by a competent person before installation and thereafter the product must be inspected daily before use. An inspection record card is issued with this manual and should be updated after each routine inspection. Follow the points laid down in the section headed 'Inspection Guidelines' without deviation.

Any problems or faults must be reported back to the supervisor immediately and before any use. The supervisor must ensure that the equipment is being used correctly and that the user is aware of its safe use and inspection.

## Training

It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the operators and supervisors understand the instruction manual and are trained in:

- How to correctly inspect, use and maintain the descender.
- How to correctly install the descender (for mobile climbing walls).
- How to instruct and supervise climbers on the correct use of the descender.
- Rescue techniques.
- The consequences of improper use of the descender.

It is the responsibility of the operators to ensure that all users are:

- Properly fitted into an appropriate harness.
- Correctly attached to the rope.
- Instructed on proper techniques for ascending and descending.
- Instructed on what to do in the event of a slack rope or improper retraction.

## Installation

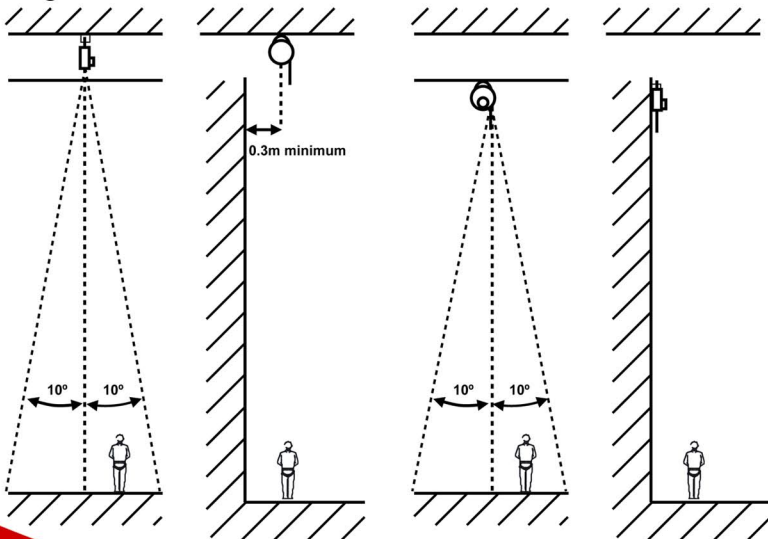
The Safedown Autobelay must be anchored from a structure that will hold a proof load of 12kN and that is both robust and static. The anchorage should be positioned above the point of use. The area beneath the device should be free of obstacles that could interfere with the passage of the rope or injure the user when descending. There should be enough room around the path of descent to allow the climber a limited amount of swing on the device without injury.

A suitably load rated maillon should attach the top hole in the device's handle to the primary anchor point and a backup anchor should be attached using the long hole. The backup anchor attachment should provide enough slack so that it does not interfere with the primary anchor's ability to allow sideways movement in the device. The slack backup attachment can be created using an appropriately load rated sling, quickdraw, rope or multiple maillons (pictured).



Anchor points should be inspected regularly by a competent person and if the condition of an anchor point is not deemed acceptable, cease use of the device immediately.

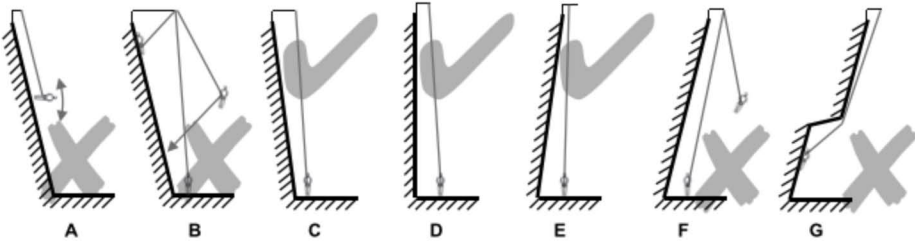
The Safedown can be hung with the device perpendicular to the wall or with the non-braked side of the device flat against the wall. Both options are pictured in the diagram below.





## Never install the device:

- Where the user has to climb alongside or above the level of the unit.
- Where the carabiner cannot touch the ground at full extension.
- Where the landing surface is uneven or liable to subsidence.
- On slabs or overhangs greater than 10 degrees off vertical.



**A** - Device mounted too close to the top of a shallow slab. Possibility of user catching holds on descent and toppling. This wall inclined greater than 10 degrees. UNACCEPTABLE.

**B** - Device mounted too far from the top of a shallow slab. User can swing when falling and impact on wall on return swing. UNACCEPTABLE.

**C** - Device mounted far enough away from the top of a steep slab to allow clear descent all the way down. Wall is less than 10 degrees. ACCEPTABLE.

**D** - Ideal installation. Device mounted at the top of a vertical wall allowing clear descent all the way down. ACCEPTABLE.

**E** - Device mounted reasonably close to the top of a slightly overhanging wall. The possibility of swinging is minimised. The overhang is no greater than 10 degrees. ACCEPTABLE.

**F** - Device mounted close to the top of a severely overhanging wall. The user will have a large swing on falling and descending creating the possibility of hitting others at ground level. Landing while swinging can also lead to injury. Wall is overhanging by greater than 10 degrees. UNACCEPTABLE.

**G** - Device mounted above a stepped overhang. As in example F but with the added risk of the slack generated by the angled rope allowing the user to hit the ground when falling from a low level. Additionally this step can cause damage to the rope. UNACCEPTABLE.

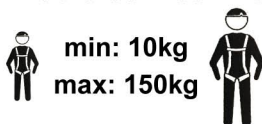
The SAFEDOWN can be installed on stepped overhang walls provided there is clear space for the user to swing into and the overhang is at least twice as far from the ground as it is overhanging.

## Use

The Safedown Autobelay is designed to be used with a full body harness or 'sit' harness comprised of a waist belt and two leg loops. The device should only be attached to a certified abseil or 'A' anchor attachment point (EN361 or EN12277 Type C).



The Safedown is suitable for climbers between 10kg and 150kg.



Before use ensure that all checks and inspection have been completed in accordance with the section titled 'Inspection'.

Pull a short length of rope from the device, ensuring that the brake resists and then allow it to retract while maintaining your grip on the rope. The rope should retract quickly and smoothly.

Attach to the device with the triple action carabiner provided at the end of the rope and check that the carabiner is locked securely.



When ascending using the Safedown Autobelay, always ensure that tension is maintained in the lanyard. If the lanyard becomes slack pull sharply down on the lanyard to restore tension. If tension is not restored descend to a point where tension is restored to the lanyard and then descend. Report the situation to the person in charge. The Safedown Autobelay should only be used when tension is present in the rope.

## Warranty

We are committed to maintaining an exceptional level of quality and performance in each of our products. Every effort has been made to ensure that your device has been built and tested to the highest standards. Should you encounter a problem with your device, we offer the following warranty:

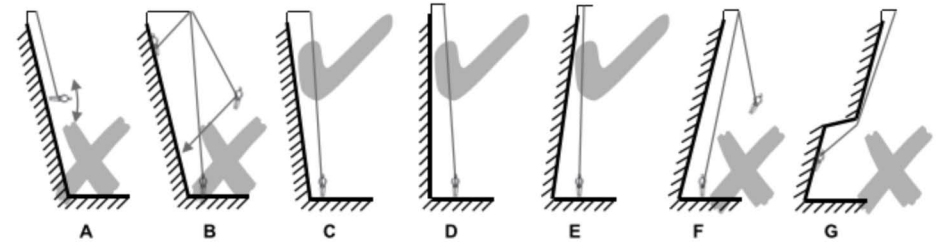
The Safedown Autobelay is warranted against all factory defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 24 months from the date of purchase. Upon notification of any defect, we will inspect and rectify any issue promptly. This may require the device to be returned.

This warranty does not cover damage resulting from abuse or misuse of the device, damage in transit, or wear and tear resulting from extended use.

This warranty is offered only to the original purchaser and is non-transferrable. Your consumer rights are not affected or limited by these conditions.

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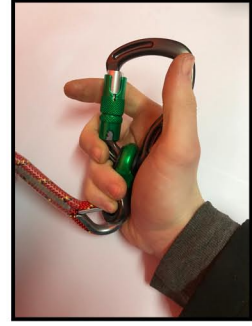
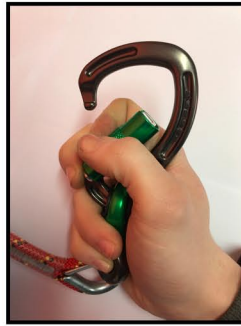
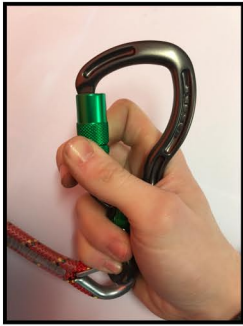


## Inspection Guidelines

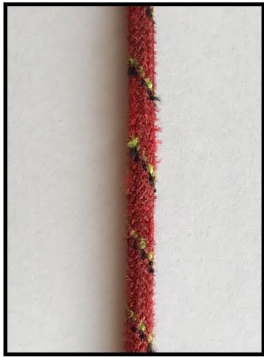
### Daily Inspection

**Appearance** - Ensure that the device is free of corrosion and signs of abrasion and wear. Special attention should be given to the rope and its terminations. Check that the anchorage is sound and that it is also free of wear and damage.

**Function** - Check that the carabiner opens and snaps closed freely and that it locks automatically. Pull the rope out a short distance to ensure that the brake resists the pull. The rope should recoil automatically into the unit upon release. If the lanyard does not recoil automatically, remove the descender from service and return to the manufacturer or their appointed agent for inspection.



**Rope** - Look for damage or signs of abrasion along the full length of the rope and pay particular attention to the anchor point inside the device. Check for obvious signs of wear or misuse. 'Fluffing' of the rope's outer sheath is acceptable wear. Once the sheath has split and the pink dyneema core is visible, remove the device from service and change the rope assembly.



**ACCEPTABLE**



**NOT ACCEPTABLE**



**NOT ACCEPTABLE**



**Noise** - Pull the Lanyard out a short distance and allow it to retract. If it makes any unusual noise do not use the device. Contact the manufacturer or appointed service agent for advice.

**Usage Indicator** - A numerical counter is fitted to the device to measure it's usage. It is recommended that the user takes note of the counter reading during routine inspection.



Never tamper with or attempt to service this unit. Devices must be returned to the manufacturer or their appointed agent for all maintenance.

Never immerse the device in water to clean. Use a damp cloth and allow to dry naturally.

### **Annual Servicing**

Your Safedown Autobelay must be returned to the manufacturer or their approved service agent for inspection, service and recertification in intervals of no longer than twelve months in order to ensure it's safe operation. Details of your local service provider can be found on the back of this user manual, or can be obtained by contacting the manufacturer directly.

## Rope Replacement

The Safedown is designed to allow the rope to be changed without disassembling the device by means of the access port in the rear of the descender.

**Step 1** - Remove the aluminium plug from the port hole.

**Step 2** - Remove the short M6 screw adjacent to the aluminium plug and replace it with the longer M6 screw provided with the rope replacement tool kit.

Screw the longer M6 screw down so that it is almost in contact with the face of the drum. You can measure this by looking through the port hole or inserting the long screw until it makes contact with the drum and then turning it back one full turn.

**Step 3** - Firmly secure the device by the handle and dispense the rope, taking care not to let it retract. Wear protective gloves whilst doing this in case you lose grip on the rope. If this happens it will retract quickly into the housing and an attempt to stop this may result in rope burns.

When the rope is fully dispensed, a screw with a yellow head will be visible through the port hole, and a locating hole to lock the drum in position can be aligned with the long M6 screw that you inserted earlier.

Continue to insert the long M6 screw until it locks the drum via this hole.

By slowly releasing your grip on the rope you will feel that the drum is now locked in place and you can safely release your grip on the rope.



**Step 4** - Pull on the rope while removing the yellow headed screw from the drum using the allen key provided. Once fully removed from it's thread, if the screw does not protrude from the device enough to grip it, a pair of needle nose pliers may be used to extract the screw from the body of the device. The damaged rope assembly can now be removed from the device.



**Step 5** - Take the end of the new rope assembly, ensuring that the protective plastic tubing is fitted through the eye, and pass it into the body of the device. When the plastic tube lines up with the appropriate hole in the drum, firmly replace the yellow headed screw.



With a tight grip, take up the tension in the rope which will then allow you to remove the long M6 screw. Slowly allow the new rope to wind back onto the drum keeping a firm grip on the rope at all times.

Once the new rope is fully rewound, dispense the rope and allow it to retract to ensure correct operation.



**Step 6** - Replace the aluminium plug and short M6 screw.

**WARNING!**

**Never replace a rope with a longer one. This can only be done by an appointed service agent or by the manufacturer.**

**Wear gloves when changing the rope.**

**If after changing the rope you have any problems with retraction return the Safedown to the distributor or directly to the manufacturer for inspection.**

**After any rope change the Safedown must be inspected to ensure it is working correctly by a competent person.**

## **Warranty**

We are committed to maintaining an exceptional level of quality and performance in each of our products. Every effort has been made to ensure that your device has been built and tested to the highest standards. Should you encounter a problem with your device, we offer the following warranty:

The Safedown Autobelay is warranted against all factory defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 24 months from the date of purchase. Upon notification of any defect, we will inspect and rectify any issue promptly. This may require the device to be returned.

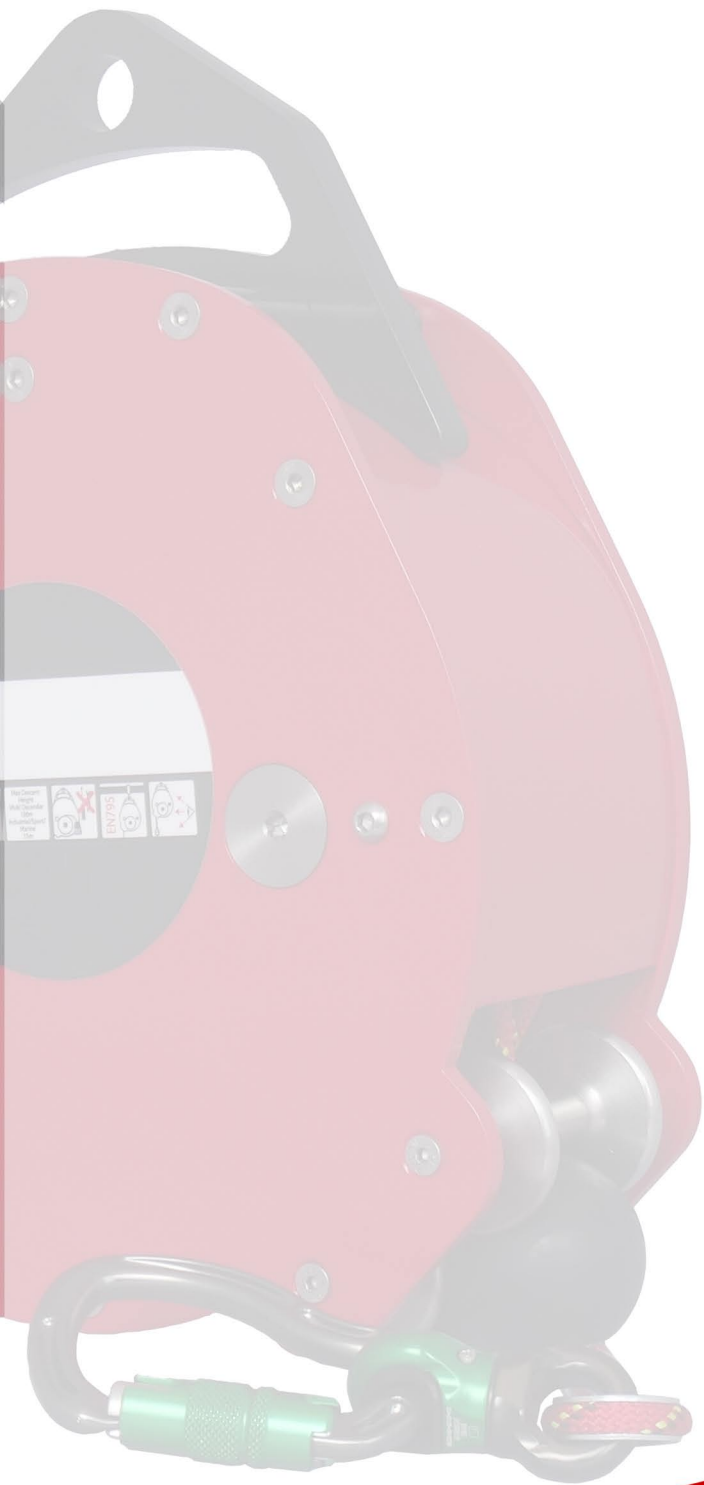
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This warranty is offered only to the original purchaser and is non-transferrable. Your consumer rights are not affected or limited by these conditions.





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## **WARNING!**

Read and ensure full understanding of the manufacturer's instructions before installation, inspection or use of this product.

This device is not suitable for users over 150kg.

Only use approved equipment with this product.

If there are any points in this manual that you are unsure of, seek a competent trained person to advise you before using.

Seek medical advice from a doctor before using this product if you have sustained a spinal injury, suffer from a neck or back complaint or you are taking prescription medication.

Do not use the device if the inside of the device is wet. Allow the device to dry out naturally before use.

**DO NOT** climb with a slack lanyard.

**DO NOT** swing on the descender.

**DO NOT** climb above the device.

**DO NOT** climb under the influence of alcohol or recreational drugs.

The annual service should be carried out **NO LATER THAN 12 MONTHS AFTER COMMISSION.**

Your approved Safedown distributor is:

This product is manufactured and tested to conform with:

BSEN 341 Type C 2011.

EC Type examination for directive 89/686/EEC by SATRA, Kettering UK

Notified Body Number 0321

The Safedown Autobelay is manufactured by: SafeClimb Ltd, 1 Rock Lane West, Rock Ferry, Wirral, CH42 1RE +44(0)333 200 2602.

Email: [info@safeclimb.co.uk](mailto:info@safeclimb.co.uk)

Web: [www.safeclimb.co.uk](http://www.safeclimb.co.uk)