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Standard Specification for Labeling of Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes requirements for the information that shall accompany, be affixed or available to the purchaser of climbing and mountaineering equipment. In addition, this specification instructs the method by which this information shall be attached to, or accompany, the product.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F1773 Terminology Relating to Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment and Practices

2.2 *Other Standards*:

ANSI Z535.4-1991 Product Safety Signs and Labels³

UL 969-89 Marking and Labeling Systems, Third Edition⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *accompany product, n*—the manner which information is provided with each individual piece of equipment in such a way that it remains with the product up through the point of sale.

3.1.2 *available to consumers, n*—the manner in which information is readily made available to customers, upon request or is on display, at the time of purchase.

3.1.3 *durably affixed, n*—the manner of attaching information directly to the product which endures for the life of the product.

3.1.4 *indicated on spools or packaging, n*—the manner in which information is clearly made visible to purchasers of bulk quantities of climbing or mountaineering equipment.

3.1.5 *universal warning, n*—a five-part statement designed to alert consumers to the inherent risks in climbing and

mountaineering activities, and the most basic guidelines for use of climbing and mountaineering equipment. The warning shall read as follows:

3.1.5.1 Failure to follow these warnings increases the risk of injury or death.

3.1.5.2 You are responsible for your own actions and decisions.

3.1.5.3 This product is designed for climbing and mountaineering only.

3.1.5.4 Climbing and mountaineering are inherently dangerous.

3.1.5.5 Special knowledge and training are required to use this product.

4. Requirements

4.1 The appearance of any climbing and mountaineering equipment information designed to warn against known hazards associated with the use of the item shall be in accordance with **ANSI Z535.4-1991** for the appropriate hazard classification level.

4.2 Terms used in climbing and mountaineering equipment information shall be in accordance with Terminology **F1773**.

4.3 Fabric or textile labels that are affixed durably shall remain legible for the life of the product.

4.4 Metal embossings shall remain legible for the life of the product.

4.5 Pressure-sensitive labels shall remain legible for the life of the product. They shall comply with the applicable provision of **UL 969-89**.

4.6 Product information shall include the following items in accordance with the climbing and mountaineering labeling matrix shown in **Fig. 1**.

4.6.1 *Manufacturer's or Distributor's Name or Logo*—A clear indication as to who is responsible for the primary manufacture or distribution, or both, of the product.

4.6.2 *Size (if applicable)*—A means for the consumer to distinguish between different sizes of products under the same model name. Markings may be numerical, alpha, or color codes.

4.6.3 *Performance Rating (if applicable)*—Appropriate value(s) as determined by test methods, interpreted using the three s rating as defined in Terminology **F1773**. Rating(s) may be variable or attribute data, depending on the nature of the product and the test method applied.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **F32** on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **F32.01** on Equipment, Testing, and Maintenance.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁴ Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Corporate Progress, 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062.