

Safety Alert

It has come to our attention that an attachment device to install safety nets to steelwork is being used by some net rigging contractors in the UK. It is similar in appearance to Netclaw.

It is our understanding that the device (being marketed as “Net clamp”) has no testing to evidence its performance in the event of a fall and is therefore potentially placing the lives of workers above nets in jeopardy. This has issues with regards to section 6 of the Health & Safety @ Work Act 1974 and PUWER regs.

The FASET technical bulletin number 4 identifies testing requirements for attachment devices and this information should be held by the manufacturer and made available for inspection.

Netclaw is a remote attachment device, developed by Shiresafety.com in 2002. It was introduced to help the industry work towards the impending requirements of the Work @ Height Regulations by “avoiding working at height” during the net rigging process. It has undergone rigorous testing, far exceeding FASET’s performance criteria and is backed by raw material batch traceability, instructions for use, training and the full support of Shiresafety.com.

It is not possible to establish communication with those marketing “Net clamp” because their identity and contact details are not clear. This means that in the event of any performance issues, it will not be possible to seek support and advice from those responsible and accountable.

The 25mm Netclaw unit has a “yellow/bronze” passivated finish and bears no other markings. Any other etched or engraved markings would suggest the unit is **not** Netclaw and therefore will NOT carry the same level of support and traceability available through Shiresafety.com. We are able to determine whether or not the raw materials used have been produced by ourselves.

Netclaw is covered by a granted UK patent that covers both its manufacture and /or **commercial use** within the UK. Shiresafety.com have successfully taken steps to enforce these rights against infringers during the course of 2008 and in line with our company policy, will continue to do so.

Issued by Shiresafety.com, The Sidings, Main Road, Colwich, Staffs, ST17 0XD.

Tel: 01889 882777. Contact Rob Harris 07951 402771 or rob@shiresafety.com

Netclaw is a registered trademark.