MAXIMIZE THE LIFE OF YOUR WEBBING: TRUBLUE

BEST PRACTICES TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE WEBBING IN YOUR HEAD RUSH TECH DEVICES

This document outlines best practices to help extend the life of the webbing in your TRUBLUE auto belay. The webbing is a critical element in all Head Rush Technologies devices and is a wear component that will eventually need to be replaced. Fortunately, it can easily be replaced on location by following instructions provided in the user manual. It is essential to conduct regular inspections of your device to ensure proper operations and to gauge the condition of your webbing.

There are a number of factors that affect the lifespan of webbing, and each device has its own expected webbing lifespan. Plan accordingly for your device and reduce factors that cause excess wear to extend your webbing’s life. Always refer to your unit’s operator manual when installing your unit, altering its setup, or replacing the webbing.

MOUNTING & ORIENTATION

LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS: Make sure the area where the TRUBLUE auto belay will be used is free of obstructions. The webbing should be free to move and should not be rubbing on any surfaces during use. Roofs, sharp overhangs, and large protruding hand holds will increase wear on the webbing and should be avoided. Consider any large swings that may be dangerous for the climber and would also increase webbing wear.

PROPER MOUNTING: The single point mounting set-up is the preferred mounting for your TRUBLUE auto belay. This configuration is achieved by installing the primary attachment to the central mounting point with a backup mount (not bearing the weight of the auto belay during normal operations) to the secondary mounting point. Do not use rigid attachments; the TRUBLUE should be able to move laterally but not rotate.

DEVICE ORIENTATION: Make sure the round covers of the TRUBLUE auto belay are parallel to the wall.

USE OF THE DEVICE

GUIDING USER BEHAVIOR: It is important to provide an orientation for all users who will be climbing with the TRUBLUE auto belay so they are aware how to properly clip in and how to recognize normal auto belay function.

Climbers should remain below the auto belay, never climbing to the side or above the device. Climbers should also remain within the climbing lane below the device, never attempting routes far to the left or right of the device.
**ROTATE UNITS:** If you have multiple TRUBLUE auto belays, some devices may see higher rates of use and therefore will see more webbing wear over time. If possible, rotate TRUBLUE devices between high and low traffic areas of your climbing wall.

**TWISTED WEBBING:** Webbing that twists during use may cause excess friction as it is pulled from and retracted back into the device. Be aware of user behavior causing excessive twisting or windy conditions that may cause twisting.

**SUN, WATER, DEBRIS, & CHEMICALS**

**SUN & WATER EXPOSURE:** Webbing can be used when wet, but wet webbing may result in increased wear because of increased friction. Webbing stored in the device wet can also grow mold, effecting webbing life. If wet, the webbing should be pulled all the way out of the device (not just to the ground) to dry completely. Direct sun exposure will also increase webbing wear through UV damage over time, and both indoor and outdoor facilities can be affected by UV damage.

**DEBRIS OR CHEMICALS:** Any foreign debris, dirt, or chemicals that come in contact with the webbing will increase wear over time. Debris that enters the device as the webbing retracts will also cause excess webbing wear. Chemicals that must not come in contact with the webbing include but are not limited to: chlorine, bleach, and soap. These chemicals will compromise the strength of the webbing and require the webbing to be replaced.

**INSPECTIONS**

In addition to annual recertifications, it is your job as operator to complete regular inspections of your TRUBLUE auto belay device and webbing as outlined in the manual. The webbing is a wear component and will need to be replaced eventually. Make sure you are monitoring the condition of your webbing and replacing it once unacceptable wear is apparent. Consult the manual for inspection details and pictures of webbing wear at different stages.

**DAILY, WEEKLY, & SIX-MONTH INSPECTIONS:** At minimum, a daily visual inspection of the TRUBLUE webbing should be conducted to evaluate wear and integrity. Weekly and six-month inspections require a more thorough inspection of the webbing and the condition of the device. Consult the manual for full details on these inspections.

**ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION:** An annual recertification is part of the American National Standard’s safety requirements for personal fall arrest systems, and is an essential piece of climbing safety. After all, the TRUBLUE auto belay is a life safety device and a climber’s partner on the wall. The annual recertification must be performed by an authorized Head Rush Technologies service center, and the certification expiration is shown on a label on the side of the device. Learn more about the recertification process at headrushtech.com/recertification.