



# Standard Specification for Labeling of Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1775; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 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:<sup>2</sup>

F 1773 Terminology Relating to Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment and Practices

### 2.2 Other Standards:

ANSI Z535.4-1991 Product Safety Signs and Labels<sup>3</sup>

UL 969-89 Marking and Labeling Systems, Third Edition<sup>4</sup>

## 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 F 1773.

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 F 1773. Rating(s) may be variable or attribute data, depending on the nature of the product and the test method applied.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.21 on Climbing and Mountaineering.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

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

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

CATEGORY OF PRODUCT

CATEGORY OF INFORMATION	Ascenders	Belay Devices	Bolt Hangers	Carabiners	Chocks, Active	Chocks, Passive	Crampons	Descenders	Harnesses	Helmets	Ice & Snow Anchors	Ice Tools	Pitons	Pulleys	Ropes	Sewn Webbing & Slings	Bulk Textile Products
Manufacturer's or distributor's name or logo	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	IV
Size (if applicable)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	IV
Performance rating (if applicable)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	IV
Care and maintenance	II	III	III	III	II	III	II	III	II	II	III	II	III	III	II	III	III
Life of product	II	III	III	III	II	III	II	III	II	II	III	II	III	III	II	III	III
Product specific information	II	III	III	III	II	III	II	III	I	I	III	II	III	III	II	III	III
Caution against second hand use	II	III	III	III	II	III	II	III	I	I	III	II	III	III	II	III	III
Universal warning	II	III	III	III	II	III	II	III	I	I	III	II	III	III	II	III	III

LEGEND

Information which shall be:

Durably affixed to product	=	I
Accompany product	=	II
Available at the time of purchase to consumers	=	III
Indicated on spools or packaging	=	IV

FIG. 1 Climbing and Mountaineering Labeling Matrix

4.6.4 *Care and Maintenance of Product*—A description of appropriate maintenance procedures to ensure proper operation of product. This should include, but is not limited to, description of proper storage environment, cleaning procedures, proper repair procedures, lubrication procedures (if applicable), and special considerations.

4.6.5 *Life of Product*—Information about attributes that indicate the product is worn out.

4.6.6 *Product-Specific Information*—Information, diagrams, and warnings specific to the product. All product-specific warnings shall follow the ANSI Z535.4-1991 **Warning** format.

4.6.7 *Definitions of Critical Terms*—Terms that are specific to the product.

4.6.8 *Caution Against Second-Hand Use*—The caution against second-hand use shall be in ANSI Z535.4-1991 **Caution** format. A warning against second-hand use may look like Fig. 2.

4.6.9 *Universal Warning*—The universal warning shall be in ANSI Z535.4 **Warning** format. The universal warning

should be prominently placed. An example of the climbing and mountaineering universal warning may look like Fig. 3.

4.7 All markings, labels, and information shall not interfere with the proper operation or integrity of the product unless designed to be removed prior to the use of the product.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Consistent wording and a standard format of the warning information for climbing and mountaineering equipment will enable the industry to present safety and use guidelines to the consumer. This information can be imparted most effectively by the use of the same terms and appearance of information on labels and literature by all producers of equipment.

6. Keywords

6.1 climbing; climbing and mountaineering equipment; mountaineering

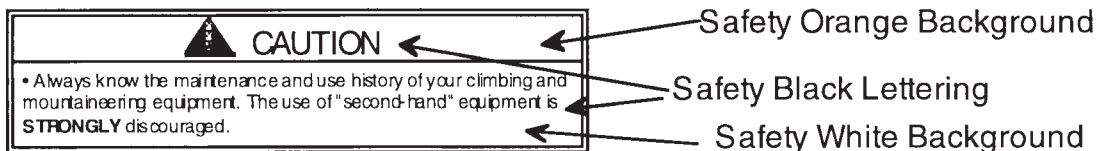


FIG. 2 Caution Against Second-Hand Use

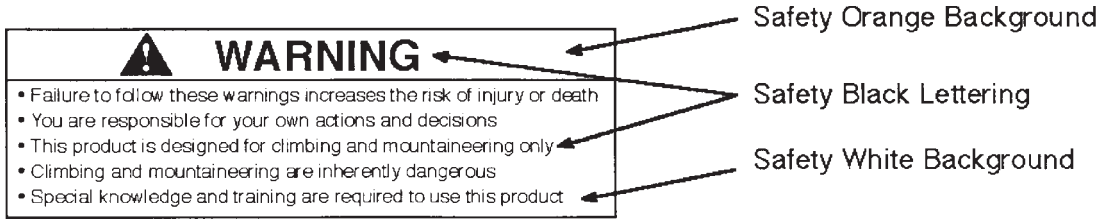


FIG. 3 Climbing and Mountaineering Universal Warning

## APPENDIX

### (Nonmandatory Information)

#### X1. HISTORY

X1.1 On April 16, 1993, members of the climbing industry, representing manufacturers, retailers, users, interested parties, and consumers, met to form a Climbing and Mountaineering Subcommittee of ASTM, F08.21, for the purpose of establishing standards for climbing and mountaineering. It was decided to develop standards for each major product category of the sport, common terms used in the sport, and a specification for the labeling of equipment.

X1.2 Climbing and mountaineering are sports that require special training and knowledge to be practiced safely. It is important to note that the subcommittee determined that it was only interested in the sport of climbing and mountaineering, meaning that non-recreational activities are not within the scope of the group.

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