THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA



GFA AN 192

(ISSUE 1)

AIRWORTHINESS ADVICE NOTICE

TYPE AFFECTED: All Types fitted with a Gadringer Harness

SUBJECT: Gadringer Harness Disassembly / Assembly

BACKGROUND: A Service Difficulty Report was received detailing incorrect

reassembly of a harness adjuster after harness webbing

maintenance.

DEFECTS: Incorrect assembly of the slider within the length adjuster has

been identified on a current generation Gadringer harness

manufactured 9/2014.

This is the same harness which was the subject of an earlier defect report in 2021 where the sliders in three of the eight belts had been found installed upside down.

The observation reported here is more subtle. The slider has been reinstalled upright but inadvertently end for end. The slider does not have a symmetric cross section and so correct orientation does matter. The slider has a straight (almost flat) face and a curved face. Refer to the photo below.

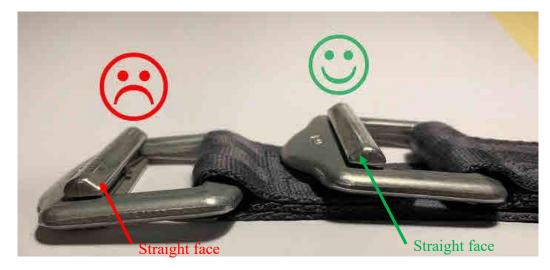
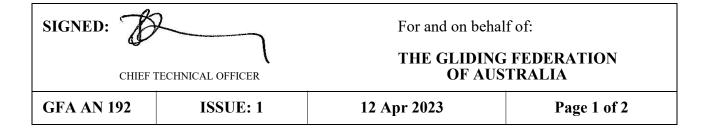


Figure 1: Left adjuster is wrong; straight face of slider is towards webbing. Right adjuster is correct; straight face of slider is towards adjuster nose.



The orientation of the slider will influence the friction between the slider and the webbing. Incorrect orientation will reduce the friction when the harness is tightened and may allow slacking of the harness over time.

There is no information on this matter in the current Gadringer manual located on their website. Gadringer advise they will update their manuals accordingly. Gadringer further state:

'Correct installation of the slider must be with "straight (almost flat) face" orientation towards the adjuster nose - like the right one on your photo. This is to prevent micro-slip (slacking) of webbing.'

Inspectors need to ensure that the sliders are correctly oriented on reassembly after maintenance.

GFA AN 192	ISSUE: 1	12 Apr 2023	Page 2 of 2