

Crelling Harnesses for Disabled Ltd.

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Use of Safety Knife Webbing Cutter Policy

It is advisable that clients who use vehicle harnesses in our range opt to carry a safety knife webbing cutter on board the vehicle to aid in the quick release of the harness wearer in the event of a road traffic accident. This is not a mandatory rule, it is just strongly advised by our company, and should especially be considered in cases where harnesses with steel safety buckles are being used.

Companies and individuals are responsible for performing their own risk assessments for the use of the harnesses and safety knives. Please check your own company's policy prior to purchasing and use. We would recommend that the following information is adopted into these assessments for the use of safety knife webbing cutters.

- Safety knife webbing cutters are encased metal blades that are used to slice through the webbing strap of safety belts and harnesses to aid in the quick removal of the passenger. We would advise that all drivers / assistants / staff and carers are made familiar with this product and its purpose. They should be shown exactly where all the safety knives are situated in the vehicle.
- It is advisable that safety knives are kept in the same location in the vehicle at all times to avoid confusion in an emergency. The location of the safety knife should be out of sight and reach of special needs harness wearers, but within reach of the driver/ passenger assistant. It is at your companies discretion as to the amount of safety knives kept in the vehicle. We however would recommend one within reach of the driver and one within reach of the passenger assistant. Some clients use stickers in the vehicle window to indicate that safety knives are stored on board and their location.
- Safety knives sold by Crelling Harnesses are easily identifiable as the blades are encased in bright orange plastic and are pelican shaped in appearance. We have opted for the pelican shaped safety knife webbing cutters as we have found them to be more durable than the smaller more compact versions available. The aperture towards the blade on the pelican version is quite narrow, which reduces the risk of injury to inquisitive fingers. Safety knife webbing cutters can be sourced from other retailers, although please note they may vary in colour / shape and durability.
- Use of the safety knife webbing cutter will irreparably damage the safety belt or harness and should only be used in cases of genuine emergency: i.e. Road traffic accident / jammed seat belt buckle etc.
- Following use in an emergency, the safety knife and the harness / safety belt it has been used on should always be replaced with new versions.
- It is recommended that a responsible adult should be present on board any vehicle where safety knife webbing cutters are stored whilst the vehicle is in use by special needs individuals.
- Safety knife webbing cutters should be subject to regular maintenance checks to assess for any damage. I.e. broken plastic handles, loose or rusted blades etc. Any damage should be reported to managers and the item should be replaced immediately.