

January 24, 2014

Product Inspection Notice: **Immediate Action Required**

PRODUCT(S): Rebar Swivel Hook. Part numbers 01600, 01603, 01608, & 01611

Please be advised that Guardian Fall Protection SKU numbers #01600, #01603, #01608 & #01611 use a Usang Industrial Co., Ltd. Rebar Swivel Hook.

Usang has notified Guardian Fall Protection and numerous other Fall Protection manufacturers in the United States of an inspection notice pertaining to one of their products, the Rebar Swivel Hook S-3616.

This product, supplied by Usang, has a threaded bolt assembly that connects the swivel element to the rebar snap hook. If this bolt assembly is damaged as indicated in the inspection notice below, it may not function properly.

We are strongly urging all customers to inspect their rebar swivel hooks per the inspection notice. This is not a recall.

Please read the following instructions thoroughly, as they will explain in detail how to properly inspect the swivel rebar hook.

If you have any questions, please contact David Gambini at DavidG@guardianfall.com or at **1.800.466.6385 ext. 144.**

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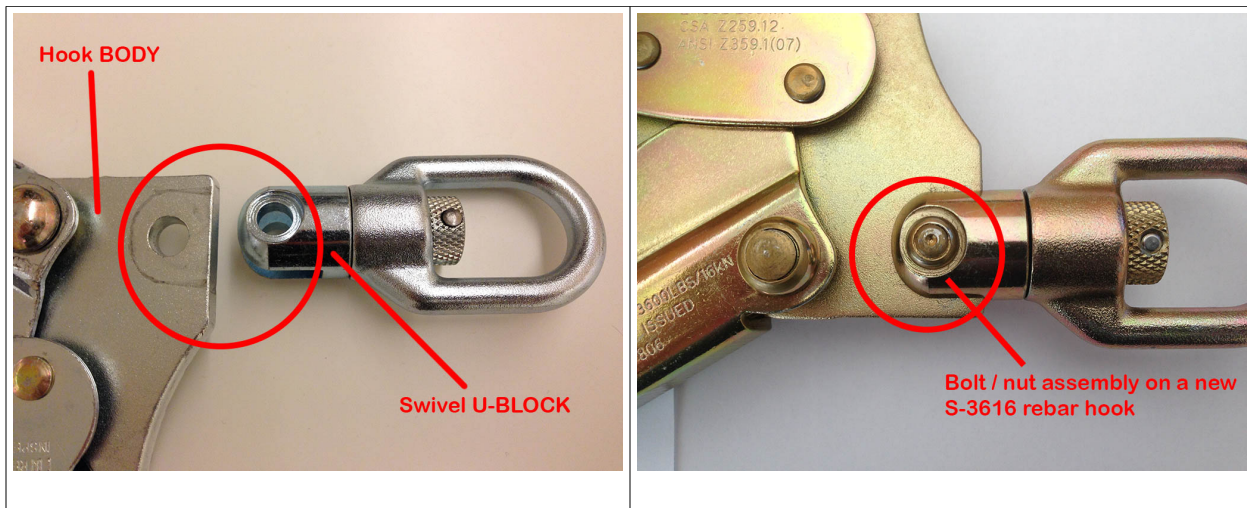
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Dear Valued Customer,

On 2014/1/3, we were notified of 2 S-3616 rebar hook failure from the field. The 2 rebar hooks were manufactured in early 2012, and are estimated to be in use for almost 2 years at the same site. The failure involves the detachment of the swivel u-block from the hook body, and the failure point is the threaded bolt/nut. The threaded bolt/nut on the 2 rebar hooks is lost in the field and could not be retrieved for investigation.



Our production process requires the end of the threaded bolt to be spun down by an orbital press to guard against removal of the nut. In addition, locitite is applied to the bolt thread. Dis-assembly requires deliberately grinding off a part of nut and hammering out the bolt by force.

Further internal investigation into this field report revealed that repeated localized external impact force against the nut/thread could damage the nut thread and cause the nut to fail eventually. The eventual failure is from the last impact force to knock the nut off the bolt. It is not possible to un-thread the nut from the bolt, since the end of bolt thread is spun down. An example of external impact force would be the usage of a hammer by hand, striking it directly at the bolt/nut end. Below is a photo showing the required location for the external impact force (circle in red) :

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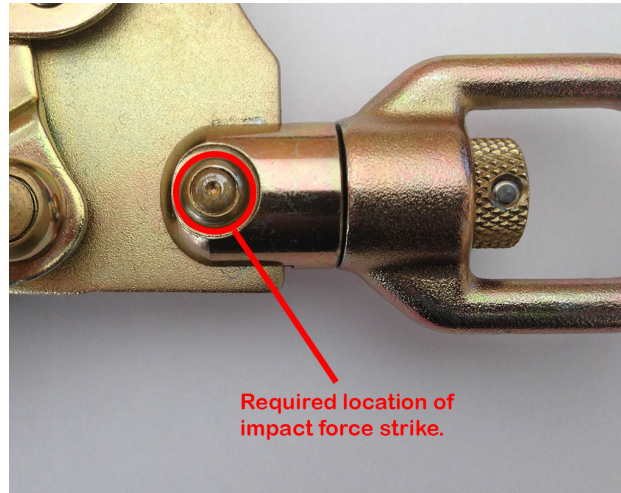
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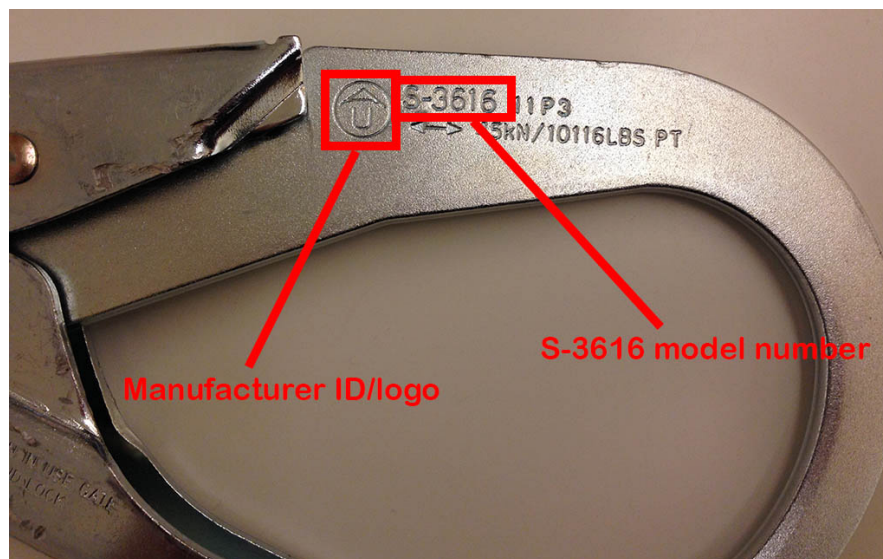
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In our investigation, a hook with damaged nut by impact force will exhibit symptom of abnormal gap/tolerance on the bolt / nut assembly. We kindly ask you to incorporate the below additional inspection procedure to your current ones.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR S-3616 DAMAGED BOLT/NUT ON SWIVEL U-BLOCK

1. Identifying S-3616 rebar hook. There should be a "S-3616" model stamped/etched on the hook body. In addition, our manufacturer ID/logo is next to the model reference.



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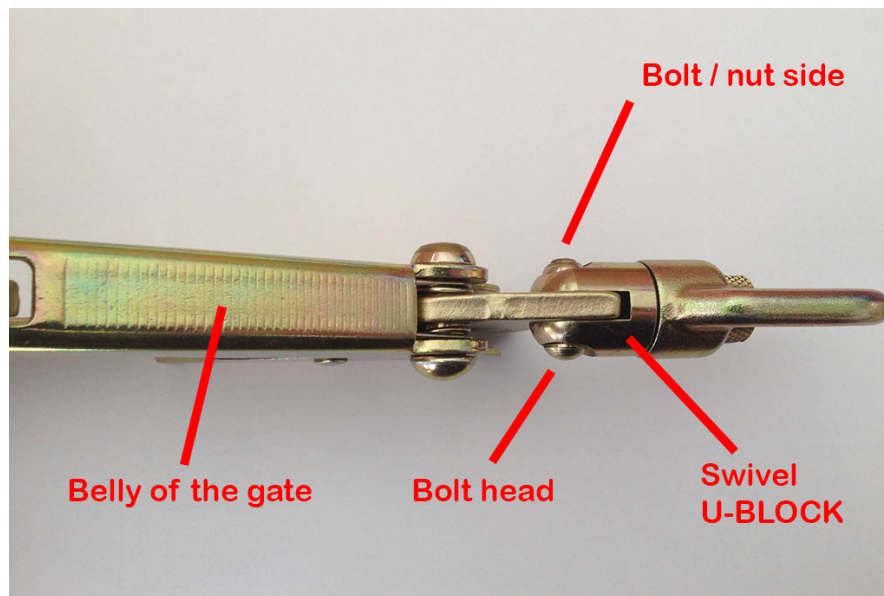
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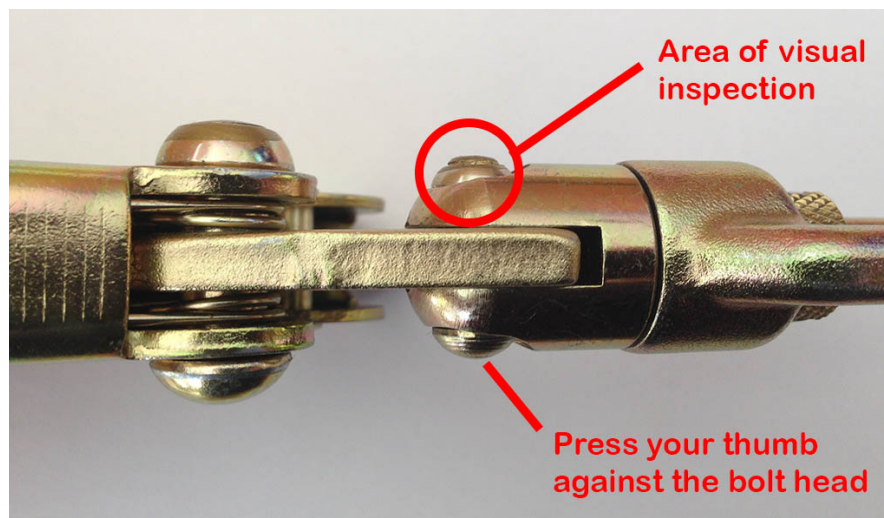
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2. Hold the S-3616 rebar hook on an eye level with the bolt / nut side up and the belly of the gate facing towards you.



3. Press your thumb against the bolt head and push it upward. If there is abnormal gap/tolerance, you should feel it immediately where the bolt could be move up and down loosely in the Swivel U-BLOCK. Continue pressing your thumb against the bolt head and visually inspect the bolt / nut side. Please reference photos in step 4 for damaged units and step 5 for good units.



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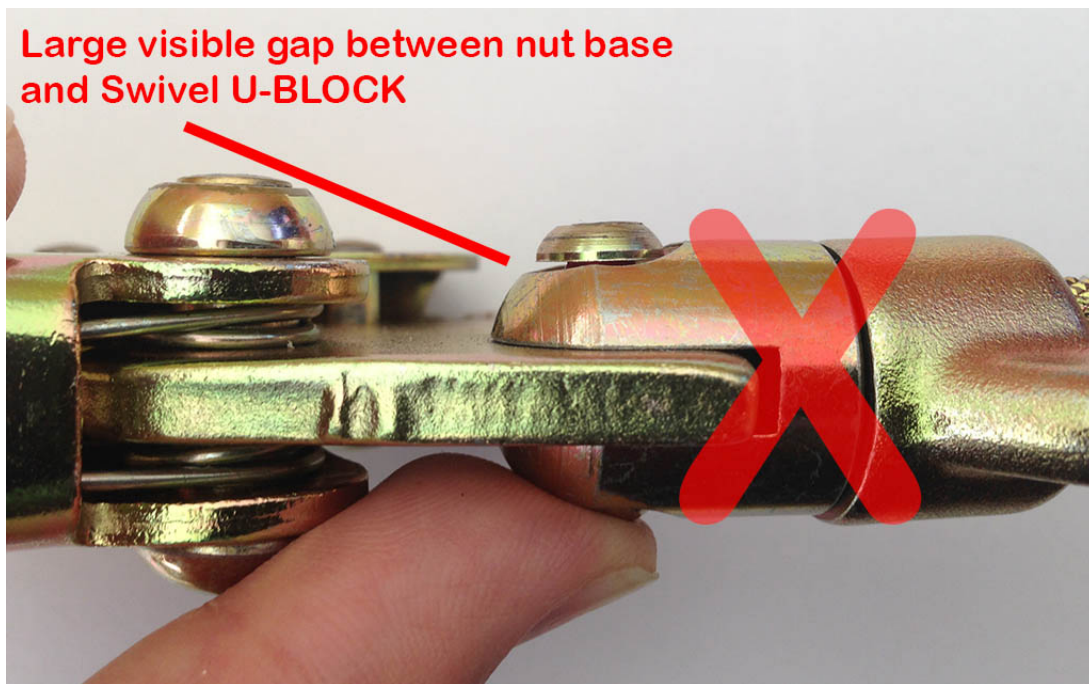
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4. **Remove** the hook from use **immediately** if there is a large visible gap at the nut base. Below are example photos.



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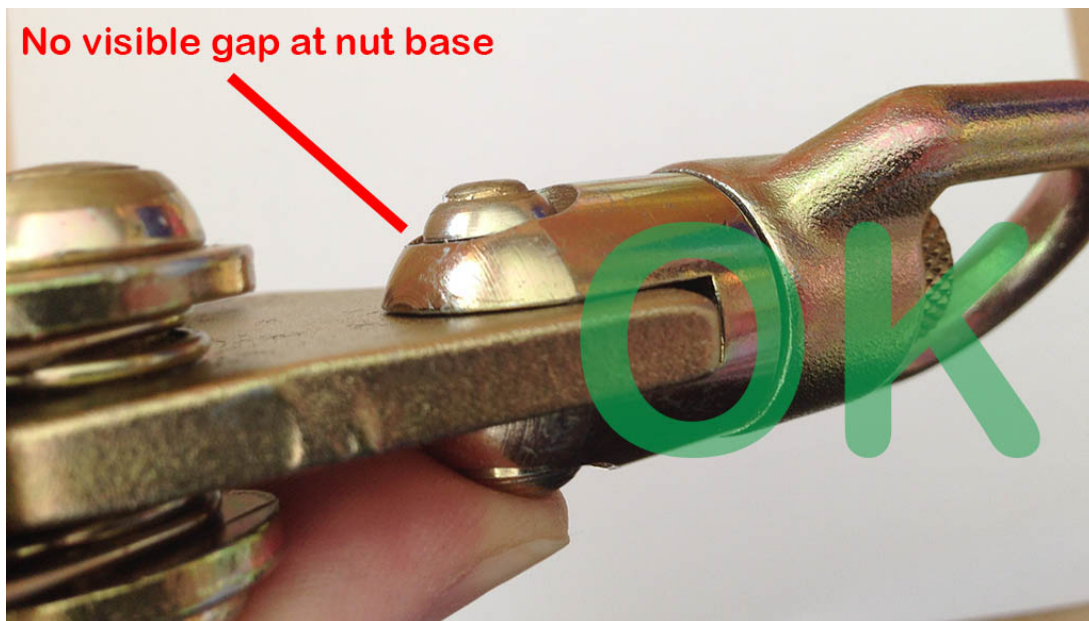
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5. Below are example photos of good units where you could continue its usage.



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