

## **Safety Warning Announcement to ITCC Competitors**

Over the last year there has been much discussion about the safety of locking snap hooks. Prior to this year's ETCC competition in Malmö, Sweden, the ETCC safety officials restricted the use of all locking snap hooks. After further investigation, it appears that there is evidence for a safety concern, but only with a limited number of snap hooks. Discussions with arborists from around the world indicate that there is a high safety risk associated with snap hooks that combine a carabiner style frame with a rope snap style gate and locking mechanism. The photos below are examples of this type of snap hook.



As a result of this safety concern, the ITCC Rules Committee issues the following direction to the ITCC competitors:

1. Appropriate locking snap hooks will be permitted in the 2009 ITCC Competition, subject to approval and passing of the gear inspection. (ITCC Rule - 2.2.9)
2. During gear inspection, the ITCC Operations Committee and Gear Inspection Technicians reserve the right to inspect, approve and/or reject any rope snap that is deemed unsafe for competition. (ITCC Rule - 2.2.6, 2.2.8)
3. Competitors are instructed to come to the ITCC - Providence Competition prepared with backup connecting links that are a suitable alternative for use in the competition.

Safety is our primary concern. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.