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First publication June 2012

## GOOD PRACTICE NOTE ROPE ACCESS CHAMBER

The IWH's Formal Statement on the use of the Petzl Shunt as a backup device

Petzl's statement on the use of a Shunt as a backup device can be found at <http://www.petzl.com/en/pro/news-pro/2012/01/10/petzl-statement-special-use-petzl-shunt>

### Conclusions from the latest Petzl statement

- ✓ *Previous Petzl statements required special training for this specific use of the Petzl Shunt. The lack of any described methods or special training therefore makes these previous Petzl statements obsolete.*
- ✓ *As a measure of precaution, Petzl recommends to NOT use the Petzl Shunt, while towed by a cord, as a back-up device in rope access.*

### In light of the new Petzl statement, the IWH recommends:

- ✓ Manufacturer guidelines should be adhered to.
- ✓ Do not purchase or procure any new Petzl Shunts. Whenever backup devices are replaced for whatever reason, it should be replaced with a backup device (conforming to SANS 50353-2 and/or EN 12841-A).
- ✓ All rope access and fall arrest training courses discontinue the use of Petzl Shunts in their training.
- ✓ The above recommendations, if followed, will lead to a phasing out of the use of a Petzl Shunt as a backup device.

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| Authorised by:<br>CEO | Created date: AUG 2017 | Doc: IWH-GPNR0004<br>Version: Rev 1 | Review date: AUG 2018 |
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