

## Safety briefing Toolbox Talk

Ref: SAFE033

### Working with Cobra rods – actions update

04/12/2018 Issue 1.1

Updated 13/12/18

#### Introduction

We recently issued a [Red Alert](#) following one of our colleagues suffering a serious eye injury whilst handling a Cobra rod. We now have the engineering fix ready to share out and details of the next steps.

**Next steps - what's happening** - We've worked with the manufacturer of the rods to devise a straight-forward engineering fix which further enhances safety when working with the rods. It's also a fix **you put in place yourselves**, rather than having to send equipment off to be altered. That way, you **know** you have made **your** equipment safer. The fix has been tested by CBS Products Ltd to check it's effectiveness; you can see the video showing the "shake test".



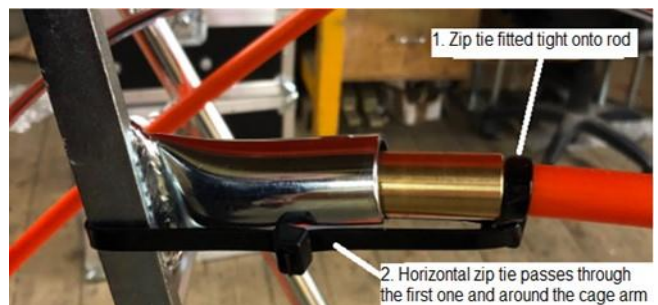
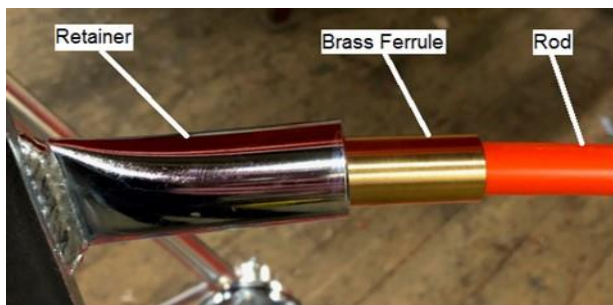
[Click to view video](#)

#### Engineers: what you need to do: new additional actions

**For all COBRA rods used in the field or training environments:**

**Important:** you **must** wear the **mandatory eye protection** (eye goggles i/c 093878 ) whilst applying the fix.

- Remove any existing tape applied to the rods as part of the temporary fix.
- Ensure rod is pushed fully home into its retaining tube.
- Apply a zip tie (**Strap Cable Fixing 2A, i/c 072546**) to the orange rod section, **next to** the brass ferrule, **not** on the ferrule.
- Run another zip tie through the one horizontally around the cage arm to the left.
- Once in place, pull the right hand side zip tie **very tight** onto the rod, so it can't slip over the ferrule.
- Then pull the horizontal zip tie tight, securing the rod/ferrule in the retainer tube.
- Finally, trim the zip ties and **wrap both in tape PVC, applying three layers of tape**.



- Once completed, this provides a secure method to anchor the rod and minimise the risk of it working loose.
- It's important to check the security of the "zip fix" before each time the rod is handled or used.

#### Managers - what you need to do: new additional actions

- Ensure your teams have seen this Toolbox Talk and are clear on the new actions needed.
- **By the end of Q4**, you **must have completed** a fresh [AMS 809 check](#) on the people **who own rods**. This is to ensure the safe system of work is being followed and all safety modification instructions have been followed. If you have carried out an AMS 809 prior to **5<sup>th</sup> December 2018**, a new check is needed only for people **who hold Cobra rods as we have made changes to the check**.
- It's important to carry out a full check; not just focusing on the required modifications. A new element has been added to question **S0051 Cobra Rods: "8325 Rod not held secure in retaining tube by cable straps or manufacturers modification"**. All defects should be recorded as usual, with notes to record any relevant information/actions.

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#### Planned future actions (we'll keep you updated)

- All managers should, by now, have completed the [Formwise return](#) to identify the type and number of Cobra rods held by their team. **This info will be added centrally on to individual eYP profiles.**
- Esi Testers will inspect the Cobra rods every six months.
- The AMS 809 will be modified to capture the changes to use and handling of Cobra rods
- All existing rods held in Magna Park have been removed and sent to the manufacturer for modification.
- All newly issued rods **will have a permanent modification** (see photo below). You do **not** need to add tape or ties to rods which have been pinned. You **do** need to do you usual pre-use checks.



**Important to note:** The yellow tape is only in **place** during modification. Tape isn't required once the rod has been modified by the manufacturer.

#### Working safely – a reminder for engineers:

##### Wear the correct PPE:

- Users of Cobra rods **must wear eye goggles (i/c 093878)** whether you're moving or handling the reels, as well as actually using them.
- Gloves: high grip general purpose give good protection.
- Coveralls: protection for the arms is important.
- **Make sure you've had the relevant training:** underground cable installation and cabling associated operations **must** only be carried out by appropriately trained people.
- **Use approved equipment:** Only use rods ordered via the formal stores ordering system. Rods ordered via any other route (not agreed suppliers) must be taken out of service and no longer used.
- **Inspect all equipment thoroughly before use** to check for any damage. If you have any concerns, stop using it immediately.
- Carry out a **risk assessment** before and during every operation.
- Use **kinetic handling techniques** when moving Cobra rods.
- Use the **preferred storage position** for the rods in your van: on the floor, making sure the reel brake is fully applied. Restrain the rod to the racking using the load hooks and a hook and buckle strap.

#### Working safely – a reminder for managers:

- If you need guidance when carrying out your [AMS 809 checks](#), the [AMS aide memoire](#) has been updated. **Thank you for all your swift action so far. You're helping to keep yourselves, and others, safe.**

##### Version history

Date	Status
04/12/2018	First issue
13/12/2018	Amended to clarify it is people who hold/use cobra rods that need an AMS809 check as priority