

METRIC

A-A-59841
30 October 2009

COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

ASCENDER, MECHANICAL

This commercial item description is approved for use by the Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia and is available for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. **SCOPE.** This commercial item description covers the requirements for ascenders which are used to assist personnel in ascending a rope.
2. **CLASSIFICATION.** The mechanical ascenders will be furnished in the following types:

Type I – Ascender, left handed
Type II – Ascender, right handed

2.1 **Sizing.** The ascender mechanical maximum weight will be no more than 200 grams. The ascender will be as light-weight as possible, while meeting the standards described in the description.

3. **SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.** The ascender action shall have top and bottom attachment holes for use with a typical carabiner in accordance with A-A-59836 for hauling. There shall be a molded hand grip. A safety release latch shall be incorporated so the cam will only release the rope when the safety release latch is activated and the cam is sprung back out of the operating position. Both the ascenders and safety release trigger (latch) shall operate freely without jamming. The rope groove sized to accommodate 8 millimeter – 11 millimeter diameter rope when wet and/or frozen. The aggressive tooth design of the cam shall be self cleaning. The ascender design shall provide ease of use with the typical combat gloves while meeting the standards described in the description.

Comments, suggestions, or questions on this document should be addressed to: Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Clothing and Textiles Directorate, Attn: DSCP Standardization Team, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5096. Since contact information can change, you may want to verify the currency of this address information using Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST) online database at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/>.

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3.1 Color. The ascenders shall be provided in a low reflectance finish and provide low contrast with typical use terrain unless otherwise specified in the solicitation or contract order.

3.2 Materials.

3.2.1 Basic material. The main body shall be constructed of aluminum.

3.2.2 Locking cam material. The locking cam shall be constructed of chrome-plated steel.

3.2.3 Grip. The molded handgrip shall be plastic.

3.2.4 Rivets and springs. The rivets and springs shall be stainless steel.

3.3 Tests. The ascender shall meet the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme – (UIAA) Standard 126 & EUROPEAN STANDARD EN 567.

3.4 Workmanship. The finished ascender shall conform to the quality of product established by this document. The occurrence of defects shall not exceed the contractors own quality assurance standards and the quality assurance standards defined in the technical data in the solicitation and/or contract.

3.5 Service life. The ascender shall have no unexpected material or component failures during a continuous one-year cycle. The ascender shall have no unexpected material or component failures during periodic use over a five year period.

3.6 Labels, barcoding and instruction slip. If applicable, all labeling, barcoding and instruction slip requirements shall be as specified in the solicitation or contract (see 7.2).

4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The offeror/contractor is encouraged to use recovered materials to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with paragraph 23.403 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

4.1 Recycled, recovered, or environmentally preferable materials. Recycled, recovered, or environmentally preferable materials should be used to the maximum extent possible, provided that the material meets or exceeds the operational and maintenance requirements and promotes economically advantageous life cycle costs.

5. PRODUCT CONFORMANCE PROVISIONS.

5.1 Product conformance. The products provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this Commercial Item Description, conform to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same product offered for sale in the commercial marketplace. The Government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

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5.2 Visual examination. Each ascender shall be examined for the following defects as listed in Table I:

TABLE I. End item examination

Examine	Defect Description
Cam	Spring not functional
Finish	Not smooth and adherent
	Not low reflectance finish
	Does not provide low contrast with typical use terrain
Construction	Not free of burrs, rough spots, slivers, flat areas or projections Any component loose, missing or not specified type Any component fractured, slit, punctured, dented, bowed, malformed or damaged Marking etched or indented, contains rough or sharp edges
Labels/barcoding/instruction slip (if applicable)	Incorrect, illegible, omitted or misplaced.
Marking	Omitted, missing information or illegible

5.3 Acceptance criteria. Acceptance criteria shall be as specified in the contract or purchase order (see 7.2).

6. PACKAGING.

6.1 Preservation, packing and marking. The preservation, packing and marking shall be as specified in the contract or order (see 7.2).

7. NOTES.

7.1 Sources of documents.

7.1.1 Government documents. Copies of Government documents are available online at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/> or from the Standardization Documents Order Desk, Building 4D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

DRAWINGS

U.S. ARMY NATICK SOLDIER CENTER

3-3-0113 Ascender, Mechanical

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(Copies of drawings are available from the U.S. Army Natick Research Development and Engineering Center, Natick Soldier Center, ATTN: NSRDEC-RDNS-WPW-C, Natick, MA 01760)

7.1.2 Federal Acquisition Regulations are available online at <http://acquisition.gov/far/index.html> or by contacting the Superintendent of Documents at 202-512-1800.

7.1.3 Non-Government documents. Non-Government standards and other publications are normally available from the organizations that prepare or distribute the documents. These documents may be available in or through libraries or other informational services.

EUROPEAN STANDARD (EN)

EN 567: Mountaineering Equipment – Rope Clamps – Safety Requirements and Test Methods

(Copies are available online at www.bsi-global.com or from BSI British Standards, Customer Services 389 Chiswick High Road London W4 4AL United Kingdom)

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME (UIAA)

UIAA Safety Standard 126 Mountaineering and Climbing Equipment, Rope Clamps

(Copies are available online at <http://www.theuiaa.org> or the Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme (UIAA) Monbijoustrasse 61 Postfach CH-3000 Bern 23 Switzerland)

7.2 Ordering Data. The contract or order should specify the following:

- a. Title, number, and date of this Commercial Item Description
- b. Type and size required (see 2.1).
- c. When required, labeling, barcoding and instruction slip (see 3.6).
- d. Acceptance criteria (see 5.3).
- e. Packaging (see 6.1).

MILITARY INTERESTS:

CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITY:
GSA – FSS

Custodian:
Army - GL
Marine Corps - MC

PREPARING ACTIVITY:
GL - Army

Project Number 4240-2009-010

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