



**'CONNECTORS /
KARABINERS'**

**Climbing and
Mountaineering Equipment**

**UIAA
121**

Foreword

This UIAA Standard is only published in the English language version, which is the master text. For any validations in translation, the UIAA Safety Commission should be contacted via the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland.

UIAA Standards are the only 'globally recognized' standards for mountaineering equipment. In order to prevent multiplicity, the UIAA collaborates with its partner in standardization CEN; and bases UIAA standard 121 on the European Standard EN 12275:2013. The EN Standards in turn are based on the original UIAA Standards, the first of their kind in the world. Additionally the UIAA publishes pictorials for each of the standards in a user-friendly way. This UIAA Standard 121 also has additional requirements over and above those in EN 12275:2013.

Owing to copyright restrictions, this UIAA Standard does not state the full requirements of EN 12275:2013 to which it refers. Hence it is necessary to obtain a copy of EN 12275:2013. The procedure for purchasing the EN Standards is included at the end of the text of this standard. The UIAA Standards are reviewed at intervals to see whether they meet the latest technical requirements and revised if necessary.

The UIAA invites manufacturers of mountaineering and climbing equipment worldwide to become members of the UIAA Safety Commission as Safety Label Holders. Members can participate in discussions on standard requirements, test methods and revisions thereof (see the "General Regulations for the UIAA Safety Label").

A [complete list of UIAA Standards](#) for mountaineering and climbing equipment can be found on the UIAA website.

This standard has been created and updated based on scientific research coordinated and funded by UIAA, as a service to all mountaineers.

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LAST UPDATED	February 2018
COMPLIANCE BY	immediate

Copyright and Version Management

This document was first published in English. The English master text is decisive in any conflict of interpretation. For any validations in translation the UIAA should be contacted via the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland.

UIAA declarations, standards, documents and guidelines are subject to review. Updates are recorded in the version details stated on the front page of this document.

UIAA documents are generally produced by the responsible Commission and are subject to approval in accordance with the UIAA Articles of Association.

All UIAA documents can be found on the relevant subject area on the UIAA website.

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The Version number refers to the latest revision, e.g. V4 is the fourth change to the document. The last update is the date of this latest version.

1. General Remarks on the UIAA Trademark and UIAA Label

- 1.1. The UIAA Trademark (see section 5.1.) is copyright protected internationally. The UIAA Label is only given to items of mountaineering and climbing equipment upon approval of prospective label holder's application from the UIAA.
- 1.2. The procedure to be followed by a manufacturer, when applying for a UIAA Label, is laid down in the "General Regulations for the UIAA Safety Label Certification".

2. Requirements for Connectors

- 2.1. The UIAA Label can only be granted for connectors which meet all the requirements of EN 12275:2013, with the following exception:
 - 2.1.1. No EN number required.
- 2.2. For the award of the UIAA Label, the following additional safety requirements shall be met:
 - 2.2.1 Strength requirements for type K connectors when loaded over an edge. When tested in accordance with 3.1, type K connectors shall withstand a minimum load of 8 kN.
- 2.3 Cross-sectional profile.

UIAA 121 and EN 12275:2013 do not specify a minimum dimension for the cross-sectional profile and thickness of connectors in the region in contact with the rope. If the thickness is too small, it will lead to increased wear of the rope in use. Further information is provided in Annex A.

3. Test methods

- 3.1. Edge test for type K connectors
 - 3.1.1. Test device

The test apparatus consists of a vertical steel pin of diameter (16 ± 0.1) mm, rigidly mounted above a thick, horizontal steel plate. The horizontal plate has an edge of radius (2 ± 0.1) mm. The distance between the edge and the vertical axis of the pin is (27 ± 0.1) mm. See figure 1, which also specifies other dimensions.

3.1.2. Test method

Clip the larger end of the test sample onto the vertical pin, allowing the auto locking gate to close and lock. Arrange the connector so that its smaller end overhangs the horizontal edge. If the connector is not supplied by the manufacturer with a rope or tape attachment, make such an attachment in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Apply a force vertically downwards to the small end of the connector by loading the rope or tape attachment. Apply the force at a speed of 20 to 200 mm/minute. Increase the force to 8 kN and check that the connector has not become detached from the vertical pin. Permanent deformation or fracture of parts of the connector is acceptable.

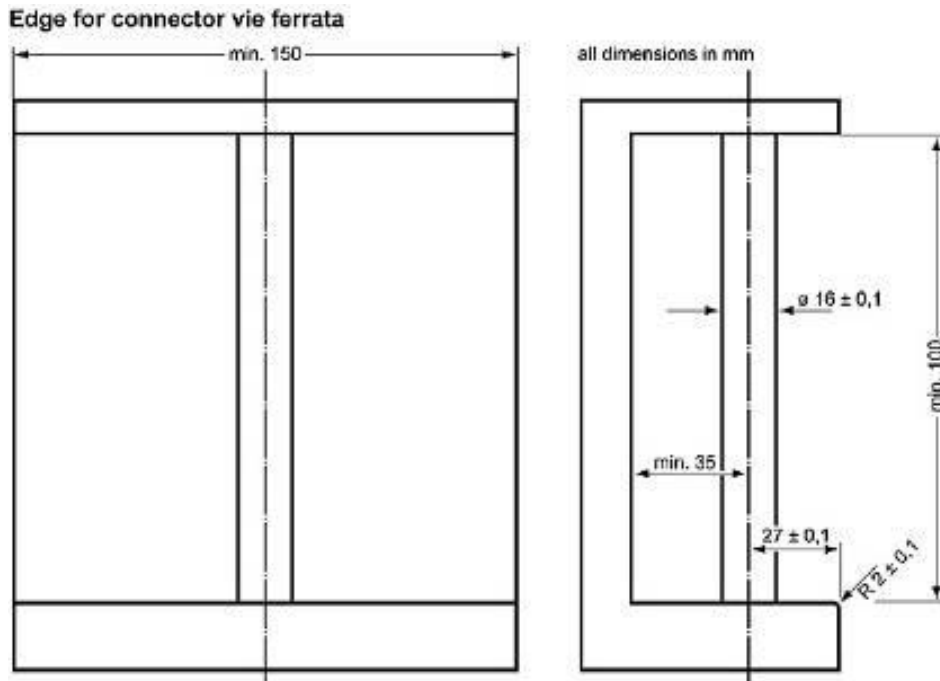


Figure 1 Test Edge for type K connectors

4. Demonstrating that the Requirements are met

- 4.1. The requirements of section 2.1. shall be satisfied by a test report from a UIAA-approved test laboratory.
- 4.2. The requirements of section 2.2 shall be satisfied by a test report from a UIAA-approved test laboratory.

5. Information to be supplied

- 5.1. The "information to be supplied" shall be given in Standard English and, if required, in the official language(s) of the country in which the product is made available on the market. As an alternative to a printed form, the information may be provided via an electronic or other data storage format link (e.g. a QR code) allowing the downloading of the information. The information link shall be preceded or surmounted by an icon showing an open booklet; the information link and icon may be directly printed on the product in a clearly visible and accessible place.

6. Attachment of the UIAA Label

- 6.1. For any model of mountaineering equipment, which has been awarded the UIAA Label, the UIAA recommends that the UIAA Trademark (see below) or the four letters "UIAA" be marked clearly and indelibly on each item sold in accordance with the branding guidelines specified in the "General regulations for UIAA Safety Label".



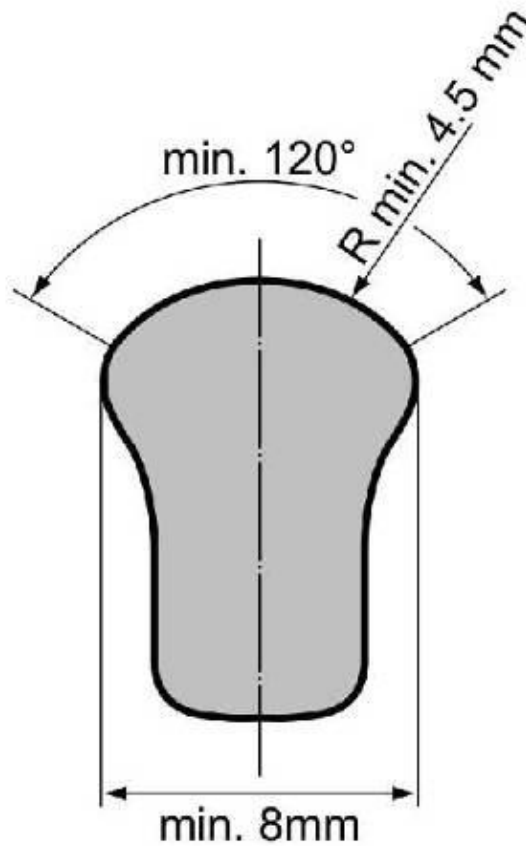
- 6.2. In addition, the UIAA Trademark or the four letters "UIAA" may be included in the instructions for use and/or on a swing ticket as well as in catalogues and other publications of the manufacturer. In the last case, the illustration and/or the text must clearly apply only to the equipment which has been awarded the UIAA Label.

Annex A (informative)

Connector cross-sectional profile and thickness

Neither the cross-sectional profile and thickness, nor the curvature of the connector surface in the region that comes in contact with the rope under load is specified in UIAA 121 or EN 12275.

One example of a good profile design in this region is shown in the figure. Depending on the method of manufacture, there will be irregularities in the cross-section such that a perfect radial profile cannot be achieved. It is also difficult to specify the region over which the minimum thickness of 8 mm should be maintained. If the thickness and/or the radius of curvature are too small, it will lead to increase wear of the rope in use. Manufacturers of connectors are hereby advised to design connectors with this example of good profile design in mind.



Last Updated	Remarks
Feb 2018	Update font and style
June 2017	<p>4.1 The information to be supplied: (in accordance with (EN 12275:2013) shall be given in English, or at least in the language of the country in which the product is sold.</p> <p>Has been updated with: The "information to be supplied" shall be given in standard English and, if required, in the official language(s) of the country in which the product is made available on the market. As an alternative to a printed form, the information may be provided via an electronic or other data storage format link (e.g. a QR code) allowing the downloading of the information. The information link shall be preceded or surmounted by an icon showing an open booklet; the information link and icon may be directly printed on the product in a clearly visible and accessible place. Unanimously approved Safecom Worden June 2017</p>
February 02, 2016	2.1. The UIAA Label can only be granted for chocks which meet all the requirements of EN 12275:2012, with the following exception: word "chocks" is replaced with "connectors" and EN 12275:2012 is updated to EN 12275:2013
March 8, 2013	Corrections of last EN norm + in point 3 + removed type K connectors major axis requirement + other types locked gate strength requirements and corresponding test methods (as it is included now in EN 2012).

*Copies of the EN Standards can be purchased from [EN website](#)