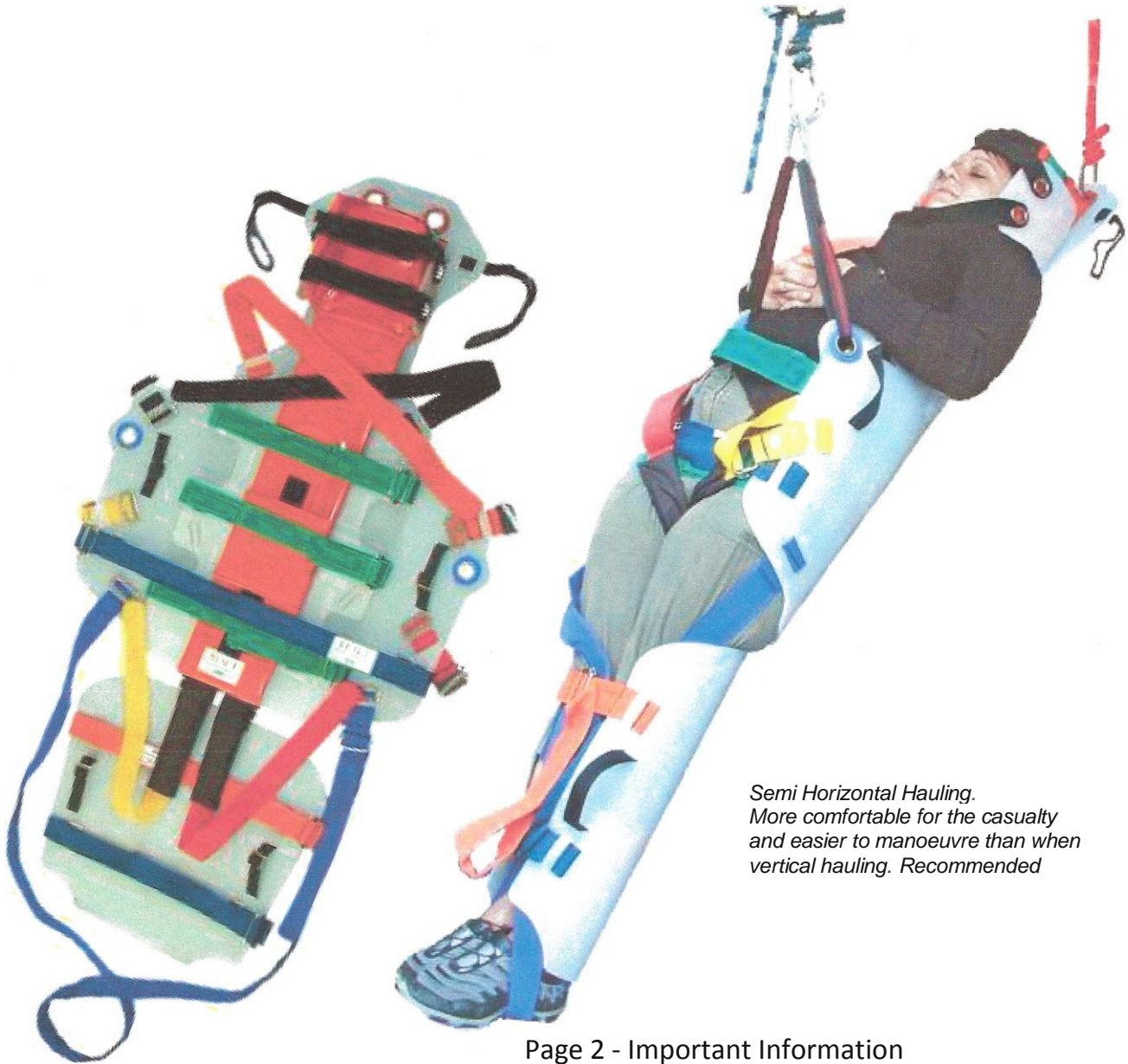


Instruction and Maintenance Manual for the Slix 50 Combined Stretcher



*Semi Horizontal Hauling.
More comfortable for the casualty
and easier to manoeuvre than when
vertical hauling. Recommended*

ABTECH
SAFETY

- Page 2 - Important Information
- Page 3 - The Slix50 Combined Stretcher
- Page 4 - Identifying the Components
- Page 5 - Loading & Securing the Casualty
- Page 6 - Attaching the Haul & Security Lines
- Page 7 - Detail of attaching Haul and Security Lines
- Page 8 - Notes on Karabiners & Skirt Fitting
- Page 9 - Inspection & Cleaning
- Page 10 - Storage

IMPORTANT
The Slix Stretchers and Spinal Splints
should be used by
TRAINED PERSONS ONLY

It is the duty of the rescue team to ensure that the casualty is secure at all times and that all ropes, karabiners, slings or any other equipment attached to, or used to lift, the Stretcher or Spinal Splint is of suitable strength and in good order.

All belays must be correctly installed and used by a competent person or persons.

Before using the Stretcher or Spinal Splint check for wear or damage. Do not use if worn or damaged.

We recommend that no powered device is used to raise or lower a casualty in the Stretcher.

When hauling the Stretcher in the vertical or semi horizontal mode a separate lifeline of suitable strength and standard - belayed separately - must always be used.

The rescue team must be able to deal safely with any emergency that may arise during the evacuation of a casualty.

REMEMBER
The life of the casualty is in the hands of the
rescuers and safety precautions must be
taken at all times.

This is not a manual of First Aid or rescue techniques.
Rescuers using Slix equipment should be trained in
vertical and confined rescue and first aid techniques

The Slix50 Stretcher

The Slix 50 has a combined Spinal Splint Stretcher may be used to raise or lower a casualty vertically, in a semi horizontal plane, (recommended), or as a drag stretcher in tight passages.

When correctly applied the Slix 50 is a safe, protective stretcher that may be used in the most adverse conditions.

All closure straps must be correctly fastened and any surplus length securely tucked away to prevent snagging.

All equipment used for raising or lowering the Slix 50 Stretcher must be of suitable strength and in first class condition.

The Slix50 Combined is provided with two Red and two Blue 25mmØ haul/security rope attachment points rated at 900K max load. The Head is provided with two RED eyelets and the Midline with two Blue eyelets.

**THESE ARE THE ONLY POINTS TO WHICH THE HAUL AND SECURITY ROPES ARE ATTACHED.
NO OTHER PART OF THE SLIX50 STRETCHER IS LOAD RATED FOR ATTACHING
HAUL OR SECURITY ROPES.**

See page 6 for the recommended attachment configuration.

Haul ropes and Lifelines must be to a minimum of EN1891A standard.

When raising or lowering the Short Slix Stretcher a separately belayed lifeline should be used for security in the event of a haul rope or belay failure.

Using dynamic ropes can give rise to 'bouncing' which is uncomfortable for the casualty.

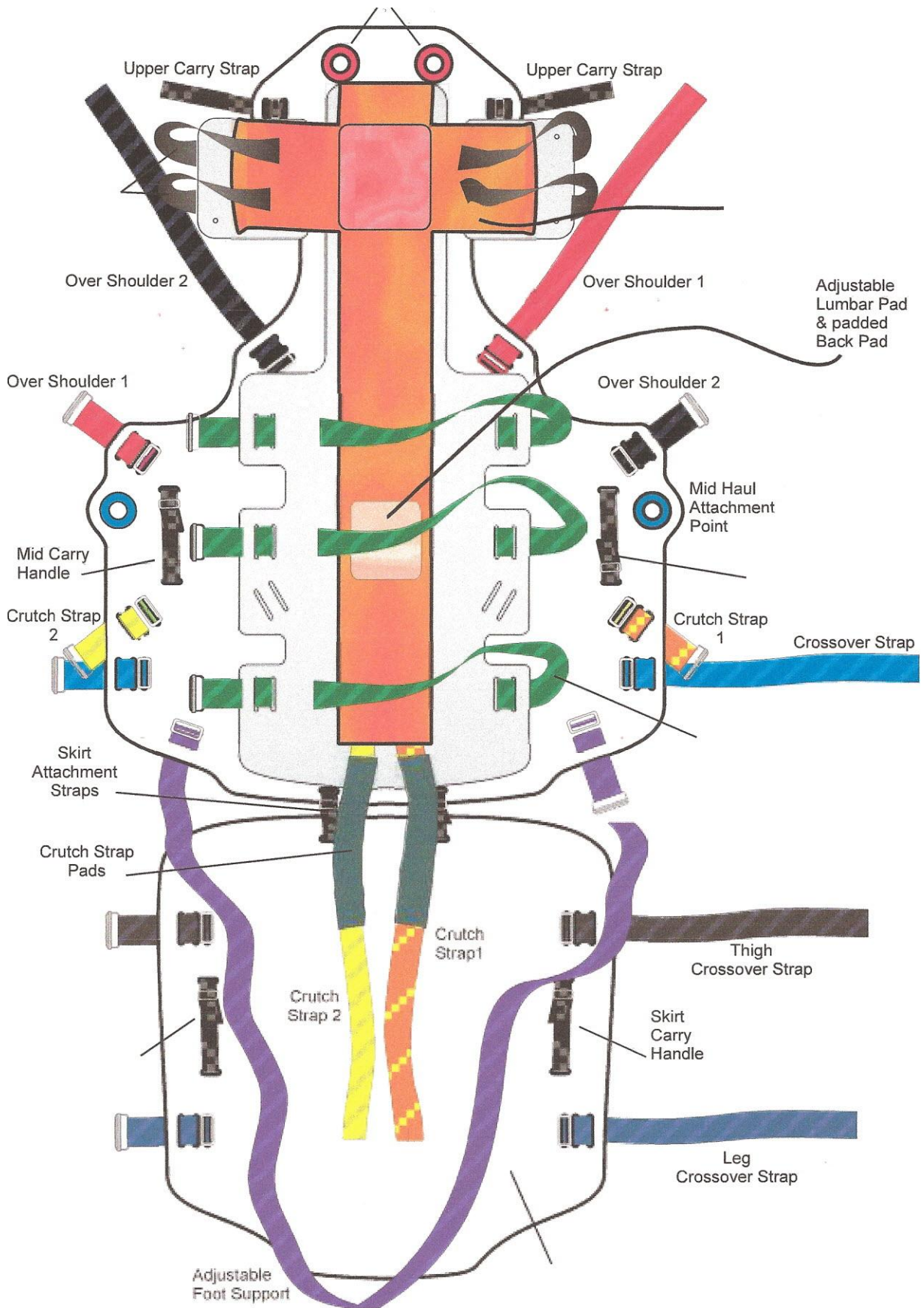
Karabiners must be of screw gate type to a minimum of 26Kn. BS EN362, and correctly attached with the gates tightened.

Screw links (mallion rapide's -Quick Links) must be to a minimum of 26Kn. and correctly attached with the screw link tightened.

Sewn Slings must be to a minimum of 25kN to EN 566 1997/EN795 1997B

Belays for the Haul and Lifelines must be sound and capable of withstanding 26Kn. At all times during a raise or lower the haul rope and lifelines must be kept taught. Failure to do so could result in a unacceptable shock load onto the casualty, ropes, slings, belays or connectors and may lead to injury or equipment failure.

Slix50 Stretcher Identification of Parts



Loading and Securing a casualty into the Slix50 Stretcher

SEE PAGE 4 TO IDENTIFY THE PARTS OF THE SLIX50 MKII REFERRED TO HERE.

Lay the Slix50 on a flat surface, with the Carry Handles down, as close to the casualty as possible. The top of the Padded Head Pocket of the Stretcher should be level with the top of the casualties' head.

Decide if the SLIX Skirt is to be used or not. If not remove by undoing the 2 x 25mm buckles and remove the Skirt. If the Skirt is to be used unfold it from its stored position and lay flat.

Make sure all closure straps are accessible

Locate the Lumbar arch in the casualties back and place the Spinal Splint Lumbar Pad level with the arch firmly onto the Spinal Splint.

Decide if a cervical collar is to be fitted and if so a competent person should fit it before moving the casualty.

Using suitable techniques load the casualty onto the Stretcher with the casualties' head correctly located into the Padded Head Pocket.

If it is not possible to place the Slix50 alongside the casualty then using your arm or some other method measure the distance from the top of the casualties head to the lumbar arch and locate the Lumbar Pad on the Spinal Splint.

A correctly located Lumbar Pad will dramatically increase the comfort of the casualty.

When tightening the straps it is better to push the strap towards the buckle with one hand and pull through the slack with the other. Just pulling on the tail end will cause the whole stretcher to rotate or jerk.

Adjust the Head restraining straps so the casualties' head is firmly secured. Note. If a cervical collar is fitted the lower restraining strap may be passed around the collar ensuring that the medic can still access the throat.

Starting at the waist fasten the 3 Green Spinal Splint Closure straps across the casualty firmly but be careful not to over tighten.

Fasten the 2 Slix50 Cross Over straps across the chest.

Fasten the Slix50 Waist Strap.

Fasten the 2 Crutch Straps.

Note that the Crutch Straps are colour coded and fasten across the thigh NOT the groin. The Crutch straps need to be fastened quite securely to prevent the casualty slipping down if a vertical section is encountered. With shorter casualties it may be necessary to compress the Crutch Strap pads to make sure the Crutch Straps are secure.

Form a loop in the Foot Support strap and pass under the instep. If leg injuries are present the uninjured leg should be used. If both legs are injured the Foot Support strap should not be used. Please note that any injuries should be accommodated when tightening the closure straps.

If the SLIX Skirt is used the Leg straps should be fastened securely.

The casualty is now securely located and is ready for transport.

If the casualty is unconscious then soft wrist and ankle cuffs should be used to prevent the limbs from flopping. An unconscious casualty should ALWAYS be fitted with a cervical collar.

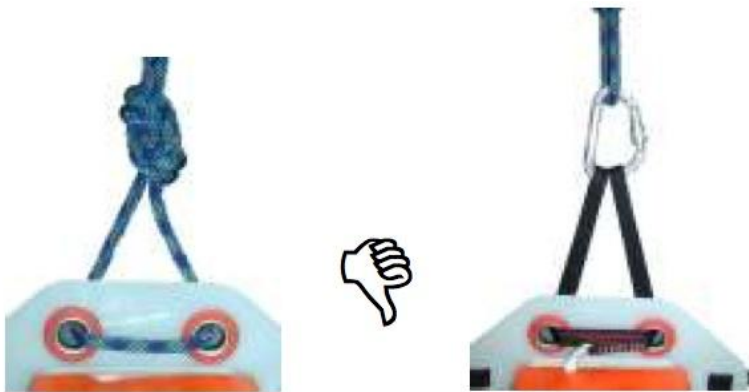
Attaching the Haul Line and the Security Line to the Slix 50

Suggestions for Head Attachment of Haul or Security Lines



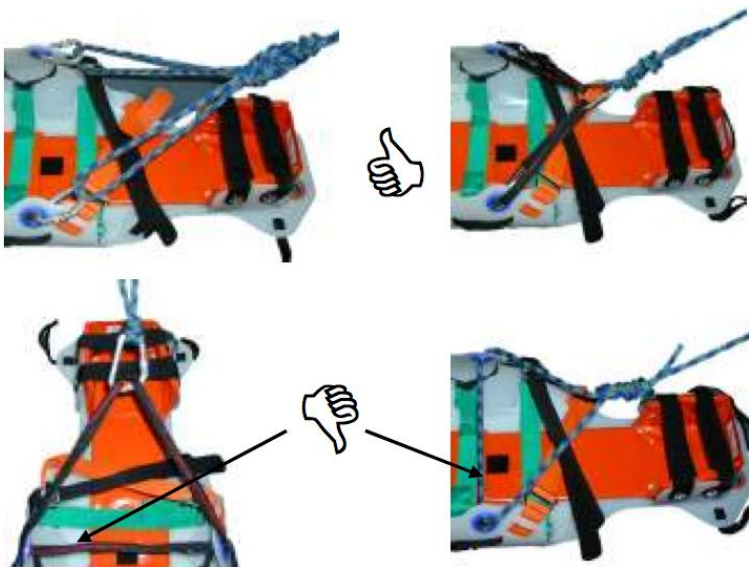
Screwgate Karabiners
and Double Fig 8

Sewn Slings and Mallions
to Single Fig 8



Do not use Sling or
threaded Fig.8 in this way
as any loading will cause
the head of the stretcher
to fold.

Suggestions for Mid Attachment of Haul or Security Lines



Screwgate Carabineers
and Double Fig 8

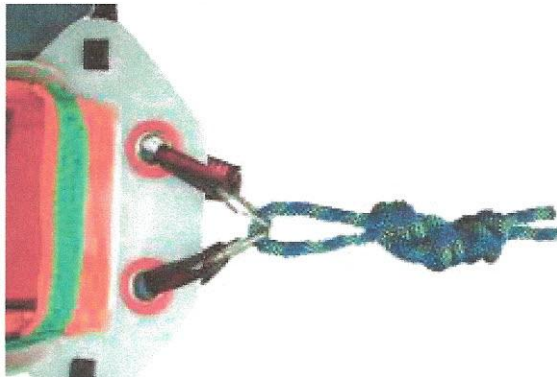
Sewn Slings and Delta
Mallion to Single Fig 8
(Recommended)
A minimum of 300mm sling
leg length will prevent
compression.

Do not use Sling or
threaded Fig.8 in this way
as any loading will cause
compression on the
casualty

Detail of Attaching Haul Line and security Lines to the Slix50

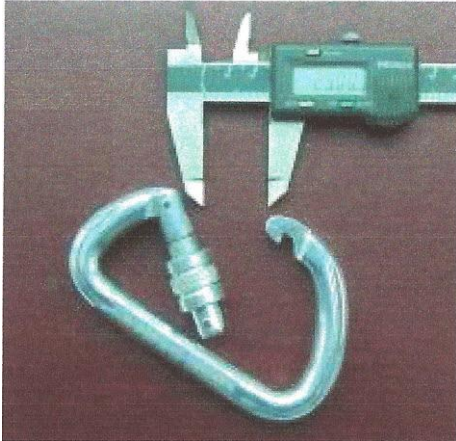


The Preferred method of attaching to the Mid Haul points for both Hauling and Security lines.
Never attach a Haul or Security line into one side only.



The Preferred method of attaching a Haul line to the Vertical Haul point.
Never attach a Vertical Haul line to one side only.

Notes on Karabiners & Fitting Articulated skirt



Use only karabiners with a gate opening of greater than 20mm. Using smaller karabiners will result in damage to the edge of the stretcher skin.



Showing the easy way to fit and remove karabiners. Forcing the karabiner into the eyelet will result in damage to the edge of the stretcher skin.



The Articulated Skirt is best fitted or removed before the casualty is packaged but it is possible to fit or remove with the casualty onboard - just a bit more fiddly. Make sure you thread the end of the tape back through the buckle for security.

Inspecting and Cleaning of Slix50 Stretcher

After each use or practice session the Stretcher should be cleaned and inspected for damage by a competent person. It is very important the stretcher and ancillary equipment is stored ready for use in a first class condition.

IF ANY CLOSURE OR LIFTING STRAPS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANY CHEMICAL, SOLVENT, ALKALINE, ACID OR ANY CONTAMINANT WHICH MAY DEGRADE POLYETHYLENE, POLYESTER OR NYLON THE STRETCHER AND/OR LIFTING STRAPS MUST NOT BE USED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

IF THE STRETCHER HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO A HEAVY DROP ONTO THE VERTICAL HAULING, OR LIFELINE POINTS DURING A PRACTICE OR A INCIDENT THE STRETCHER MUST BE INSPECTED, BY A COMPETENT PERSON IMMEDIATELY, OR RETURNED TO THE MANUFACTURER FOR INSPECTION, BEFORE FURTHER USE.

Oil, grease, blood, body fluids or non-aggressive contaminants may be removed with warm-not hot water - and soap.

If a Low Power pressure washer is available it may be used WITH CARE. After cleaning rinse thoroughly with clean water, hang vertically and allow to dry in a warm, dry atmosphere. DO NOT APPLY HEAT.

Inspect all Closure Straps, Closure Buckles, Carry Handles, Crutch Straps and Buckles and Head & Side Grab Handles for physical or chemical damage. Damaged Straps may be replaced. Contact the manufacture for replacements. DO NOT USE THE STRETCHER before changing damaged Straps.

Inspect the 2 Red & 2 Blue eyelet's, (the security and haul attachment points), for damage and/or distortion.

Inspect the area of stretcher skin around these points. If any distortion or splitting is found DO NOT USE. RETURN TO THE MANUFACTURER FOR FULL INSPECTION.

**IF IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF ANY SLIX STRETCHER PLEASE
CONTACT THE MANUFACTURER.**

Correct storage is vital to ensure that the Stretchers and Spinal Splints are in first class condition at all times.

Refer to Pages 7 for the correct cleaning and inspection of the units before storing.

The Stretcher and Spinal Splint must be stored in the Carry Bag in a dry place that is marked and accessible at all times.

It is good practice to seal the bag after the kit has been inspected and packed. A tear-off, non replaceable, type of closure should be threaded through the top of the Carry Bag. Sealing the Carry Bag discourages tampering or pilfering and the rescuers are assured that the contents are present in the event of an incident.

The Stretcher and Spinal Splint are manufactured from nylon, polyethylene, stainless steel and polyester and will not deteriorate if cleaned and stored correctly.

The inspection, cleaning and packing of the Stretcher and Spinal Splint should be undertaken by a competent person and logged.

We recommend that regular inspection, if stored in a dry place, should take place at no more than 6 monthly intervals and the inspection logged by a competent person.

For further information or advice contact:

Abtech Safety Ltd
Portside Business Park
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire
CH65 2HQ

T: 0151 355 5971
F: 0151 357 1106
E: sales@abtechsafety.com
W: www.abtechsafety.com