



Safety recommendation no. 179

Date of the publication	01.02.2024
Number of the final report	2024010302
Safety deficit	<p>On 3 January 2024 at around 4.05pm a collision occurred between two two-seater carriers on the Visperterminen-Giw detachable grip chairlift run by the company GIW AG (SVG). On the downhill run, shortly after passing the third mast from the upper station (Mast 11), carrier No 68 slipped downwards along the cable and collided with carrier No 67 immediately below. Two passengers were slightly injured. The two chairlift carriers were damaged.</p> <p>The collision of the two chairlift carriers on the downhill run in Visperterminen was the result of insufficient gripping force in the cable clamp caused by damaged and missing disc springs in the spring stack.</p> <p>Failure of a cable clamp can result in a serious accident. Loss of gripping force may, as in this incident, result in the clamp slipping on the haul rope and thus a collision between chairlift carriers or, in the worst case, causing a carrier to fall to the ground. The cable clamp gripping force must be maintained at all times. Disc springs with different clamp types are used in numerous cableway installations. These disc springs are arranged in spring stacks.</p> <p>The investigation results suggest that the disc springs in use were of insufficient quality.</p>
Safety recommendation	<p>The Federal Office of Transport (FOT) should ensure that manufacturers and operators of installations involving clamps with AK Type disc spring systems (AK 2, AK 2.1, AK 4, AK 4.1, AK 6 und AK 6.1) are made aware of the problem that occurred in Visperterminen and take appropriate action to check for and correct any faults.</p>
Addressees	Bundesamt für Verkehr
Stage of the implementation	<p>Implemented: The Federal Office of Transport (FOT) responds as follows: The FOT instructed the manufacturer to produce a technical service bulletin (TSB). The manufacturer sent the TSB to the customer on 24 February 2024 and provided the FOT with proof that it had done so. The FOT will ascertain in its monitoring activities whether the TSB has been applied in the installations concerned.</p>
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<p><u>Vorbericht</u> <u>Zwischenbericht</u></p>