

AKA GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTING, MEASURING AND STRETCHING OF SLALOM ROPES AND HANDLES

Inspection of Ropes:

1. Look for proper number of strands (12)
2. Look for proper number of yarns in each strand (60)
3. Check diameter of rope (1/4")
4. Check splices in rope to make sure there hasn't been any slippage.
5. Check color of take off loops and record on Pg #3 of the T.C. Report, titled Slalom Rope and Handle Measurements.
6. Check for fraying and worn sections.

Stretching of Ropes:

1. Hook one end of rope onto fixed object. (tree, pole, etc.)
2. Hook other end to a movable object. (wench, trailer hitch, etc.)
3. Apply tension to rope so there is little or no sag in center.
4. Check every 15 minutes for 1 - 4 hrs. to make sure splices are not stretching and creating a sag. Add additional tension if needed.

Measuring of ropes and handles:

Rope sections and handle attachments should be measured independently. However, these two measurements must be added together to ensure combination is in tolerance.

Tools Needed:

1. 100 ft. tape measure
2. Fish scale capable of measuring up to 50 lbs. or more
3. S hook
4. Short piece of non stretch rope
5. T. C. forms to record measurements.
 - A. Pg. 3 of the T. C. Handbook Titled Slalom Rope and Handle
 - B. Slalom Rope Measurement (Pending Records)
6. 2 people

How to measure:

1. Take short piece of non stretch rope, attach the S hook to one end.
2. Take other end of non stretch rope and attach to fixed object. (pole, tree, dock, etc.)
3. Hook end of slalom rope, using the loop where handle attaches, onto other end of S hook.
4. Take handle and put it on end loop which goes to boat pylon.
5. Hook up your 100' tape to S hook. (same end of the S hook that the slalom rope is hooked too) and stretch your tape out to 100 ft.
6. Get second person to hook fish scale onto handle and pull to 44 lbs. and hold.
7. Person measuring rope can then pull tape next to rope and measure each take off loop. If rope has 10 take off loops then the 1st recorded measurement is the 45 off, the second being 43 off, the third 41 off, etc. If the rope only has 8 take off loops then the 1st recorded measurement is 41 off with second 39.5 off, third 38 off, until you reach last loop where handle is attached. This is 75' or long line. The measurement for each take off loop should be made at inside of the attaching loops. These measurements should be recorded and compared to actual dimensions.

Now the handle may be measured in the same way the rope was.

1. Attach loop to S hook, pull 44 lbs. and measure to center line of handle. Record measurement.

Check to see if it is out of tolerance. It is not too often that you will find a handle more than 4'11" (actual handle dimension) If a handle is found to be out of tolerance + or -, these measurements must be added to or subtracted from the out of tolerance measurement for each take off loop to ensure that they do not exceed the allowable tolerance for each take off loop.

Example #1	Actual	Tolerance	Length	Rope #?	Handle
	37' 8 13/16"	+ - 5 7/8"	-32	37' 10"	4' 11"

Handle is not out of tolerance so you don't add or subtract anything to out of tolerance measurement for the take off loop which is 1 13/16". The allowable tolerance for this take off loop is + - 5 7/8". This take off loop is OK.

Example #2	Actual	Tolerance	Length	Rope #?	Handle
	41' 10"	+ - 5 7/8"	-28	42' 3 3/4"	5' 1/4"

Since the handle attachment is 1 1/4" over 4' 11" you must add that 1 1/4" to out of tolerance measurement for this take off loop which is + 5 3/4" (5 3/4" + 1 1/4" = 7") The allowable tolerance for this take off loop is + - 5 7/8". You can see this take off loop is long by 1 1/8".