**To whom it may concern: A message from the Arboricultural Association**

**MBS for karabiners used in arboriculture**

It has come to our attention that some karabiners manufactured with a Minimum Breaking Strength (MBS) of 20kN, which comply with the relevant European Norm (EN 362:2004 Class B), are being deemed as not safe to operate by individuals carrying out thorough examination as required under the Lifting Operations Lifting Equipment Regulation (LOLER), because they do not comply with the stated 22kN minimum MBS in the Association’s *Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture – Tree Work at Height – 2020* (ICoP) Ref: 3.10.6.5 d).

The 22kN value as stated in the ICoP is a figure that we believe should be amended to mirror the EN Standard, i.e. 20kN. The ICoP and the Technical Guides will be revised in due course (for release 2025), but the Association wishes to clarify that a MBS of 20kN (approximately 2,000kg), as in EN 362, with an appropriate safety factor applied (typical 5:1) is considered to provide an adequate Safe Working Load for normal arboricultural use *in a PPE context* for tree work at height.