

## Special Regulations Interpretation

### Tethers and Snap Hooks

Issued 18 November 2021

#### 1. Question:

Is a snap shackle considered a snap hook under [Special Regulation](#) 5.02.1(c)?

#### 2. Answer:

No. A snap hook is a hook that springs shut when released.

#### 3. Issue:

A snap shackle is a fast action fastener which may be implemented with one hand. It uses a spring-activated locking mechanism to close a hinged shackle, and may be unfastened under load.

The snap shackle is not as secure as any other form of shackle, but may come in handy for temporary uses or in situations which must be moved or replaced often. When this type of shackle is used to release a significant load, it may be hard to release and have the pin assembly or the split ring fail. Anecdotal reports indicate that snap shackles may be undone by inadvertently catching the release mechanism on a fitting, rigging, or clothing.

The Special Regulations require a tether with a snap hook so that the crew stays attached to the boat and that it not be accidentally released.

Note that a knife or tether cutter is highly recommended to be carried.

#### 4. Background:

The [LCE Showtime Review](#) made recommendations regarding snap hooks. Australian Sailing were asked to consider making recommendations to Standards Australia and the International Organisation for Standardization to amend AS 2227 and ISO 12401 to allow a “snap shackle” type of hook at the harness end of tethers, possibly with precautions to prevent accidental opening, but still be operable in an emergency. The recommendation was not agreed to for the reasons above.