GUIDELINES FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SAFETY STOWS

GENERAL

• The safety stow is the elastic loop used to close the freebag of most square reserve systems.
• The safety stow is expected to be elastic.
• The lines being held by the loop must be gripped and not fall out.
• The lines can vary in bulk.
• The safety stow must be able to be pulled completely free of its tunnel.
• The join of the two ends should be hidden in the stow channel of the freebag.
• If the container manufacturer stipulates any conditions, these must be met.

MATERIALS

• The elastic cord should be nylon covered.
• The elastic cord used should be of good quality, sourced from recognised suppliers.
• The cord must be of a suitable thickness to allow the join to be pulled through all grommets.
• The cord would normally be expected to be 3mm-5mm shock cord.
• The thread used must be of good quality.
• The thread would normally be expected to be a nylon thread such as bonded 40’s (‘E’ thread).

SEWING

• The sewing pattern should be capable of absorbing the stresses of being stretched.
• The sewing should not damage the internal elastic threads of the cord.
• The sewing should hold both ends of the elastic cord together securely.
• The sewing pattern would normally be expected to be a machined ‘zig zag’ pattern.

LENGTH

• The length will be affected by the bulk of the lines to be stowed.
• The length will be affected by the distance between the mouthlock grommets.
• The length will normally be between 5 and 9 inches.

JOIN

• The join must be hidden by the stow channel.
• The join must be long enough to have enough strength to hold under full stretch.
• The join must ensure that both ends of the cord are held close to the loop and unable to bend out (thereby catching on the tunnel ends or grommets).
• The join will normally be between 2.5 and 4 inches in length.