
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.