

# Ratchet Buckle Maintenance Checklist & Log

Printable team template for routine cleaning, lubrication, inspection, storage, and maintenance records. Designed for ratchet buckles used with load restraint straps.

| Equipment / Asset ID     |  | Strap rating / LC    |  |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Location / Vehicle / Bay |  | Inspection frequency |  |
| Assigned to              |  | Date issued          |  |

## Recommended lubricant

Use a light dry silicone spray or PTFE dry lubricant on pivot points, gear teeth and the release mechanism. Avoid heavy grease or over-application, as excess lubricant can attract grit and contaminate the webbing.

### 1. Cleaning

|   |                                                                                                         |      |      |     |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| ■ | Brush off loose dirt, grit and debris from the ratchet body and handle.                                 | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Clean metal parts with warm water and mild detergent where required.                                    | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Keep chemicals, solvents and oil away from the webbing unless confirmed safe by the strap manufacturer. | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Dry buckle and webbing fully before storage or reuse.                                                   | Pass | Fail | N/A |

### 2. Lubrication

|   |                                                                                     |      |      |     |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| ■ | Apply a light spray to hinge pins, pawl, ratchet wheel teeth and release mechanism. | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Operate the handle several times to distribute lubricant through moving parts.      | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Wipe away all visible excess lubricant, especially near the strap path.             | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Re-lubricate if the ratchet feels stiff, after heavy outdoor use, or after washing. | Pass | Fail | N/A |

### 3. Functional inspection

|   |                                                                                                               |      |      |     |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| ■ | Confirm handle opens, closes and locks smoothly without sticking.                                             | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Check pawl engagement with ratchet teeth under light hand tension.                                            | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Confirm release lever fully disengages and returns correctly.                                                 | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Check hooks, end fittings and stitching for deformation, cracking, cuts or wear.                              | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Remove from service if the ratchet is bent, cracked, badly corroded, jammed, slipping or has damaged webbing. | Pass | Fail | N/A |

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## 4. Storage

|   |                                                                                                     |      |      |     |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| ■ | Store dry, clean and away from direct sunlight, standing water, weld spatter and chemical exposure. | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Coil webbing neatly without sharp bends, knots or crushing.                                         | Pass | Fail | N/A |
| ■ | Keep ratchets off the floor where possible to reduce corrosion and contamination.                   | Pass | Fail | N/A |

## Action required

| Result | Action                                                                     |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pass   | Return to service. Record maintenance completed.                           |
| Fail   | Remove from service, label clearly and escalate for replacement or repair. |
| Unsure | Do not use. Quarantine until assessed by a competent person.               |

Notes: If a ratchet buckle or strap shows structural damage, excessive corrosion, webbing cuts, failed stitching, deformation or unreliable locking, it should be removed from use rather than lubricated back into service.