

## STRAP FAILURE

### Expert Investigates Product Liability Claim

During a surfing trip a strap that was holding surfboards to the roof of a vehicle broke and a plaintiff was injured when the strap's buckle struck him in the head. Plaintiff's expert claimed that the strap was defective because the buckle was metal. He proposed a safer alternative design consisting of lighter, plastic buckles, and stated that this proposed design would have prevented the injuries.

Mr. Heiberg showed, through the law of conservation of energy, that the proposed design would transfer the same amount of energy to the plaintiff as the original design, and that therefore, the proposed safer alternative design was not safer. Mr. Heiberg also proved, through physics, that the incident could not have occurred in the manner that the plaintiff's expert described.

At binding arbitration the matter was decided in favor of the defendant.

*Mr. Heiberg is an expert in product design, testing, and manufacture. His diverse experience includes the complete product development cycle and spans various industries. Mr. Heiberg provides expert witness consultation on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants on insurance and civil litigation matters nationwide.*

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