



Wedge Cracking

Question:

Does any notice of cracking in wedges compromise the structural integrity of a PT tendon?

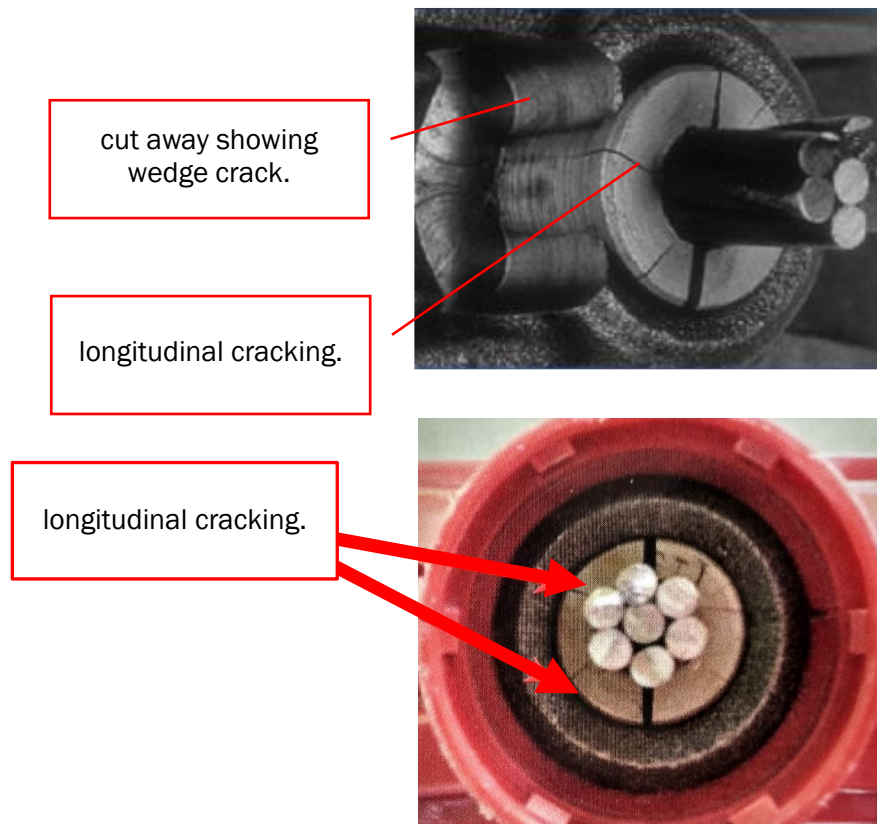
Answer:

Wedges are made of ductile core and case-hardened teeth for grasping the strand. As the wedge is seated, the teeth bite into the strand. Due to the wedges deforming and conforming to the wires of the strand, longitudinal hairline cracks may appear on the surface, visible as radial cracks looking at the fully seated wedges from the front.

These cracks do not affect the integrity of the PT system and no repair is warranted. Experience has shown that surface cracks are not a safety hazard and do not affect the performance of strand – wedge connection.

Not acceptable are wedges that have been broken into pieces signifying not only hard surfaces but also brittle cores.

Horizontal or inclined breaks are considered as unacceptable.



PTI Guide specifications – ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS FOR POST TENSIONING SYSTEMS