

Inspecting Lanyards and Fall Arrest Blocks

What Do I Need To Know?

THE SHOCK ABSORBING PACK

Are there any signs of damage to the shock absorbing pack?

Are there any signs that a fall has occurred?

Is the label still readable?

How should I check it?

By look, feel and comparing with an identical item without defects.

LANYARD WEBBING

When checking webbing look for cuts, tears, abrasions, contamination and discoloration.

How should I check it?

By look and feel.

FALL ARREST BLOCKS

Is the fall arrest block suitable for the job in hand?

— Check that it can work at the angles you require

— Look at the pictorial instructions on the label

— Look at the product user instructions

— If in doubt ask before you use.

Function test - before use always test the function of your fall arrest block.

— Pull sharply on the cable or webbing and make sure it locks

— Withdraw the cable or webbing and make sure it retracts fully.

DEPLOYED LANYARDS AND BLOCKS SUBJECTED TO FALLS

— If a lanyard has been deployed then it must be withdrawn from service

— If a fall arrest block has been subjected to a fall then it must be returned to the supplier for inspection and service

— The load indicators will show if a fall has occurred

— In both cases you must identify all the other components and connectors involved and inspect, test or withdraw the item from service.

If in doubt do not use them.



STITCHING

Any missing, incomplete, damaged or frayed stitching is unacceptable.

How should I check it?

By look and feel.

LENGTH AND CONFIGURATION

— Is your lanyard the correct length?

— Shorter or adjustable lanyards can offer increased security

— Do you need a twin legged lanyard?

— Don't forget that two single lanyards don't make a twin legged lanyard

— Has the lanyard been modified or altered? If so, do not use it.

— If in doubt ask the manufacturer.

How should I check it?

Correct risk assessment and consulting the manufacturer or supplier.



TRACEABILITY

You need to know where the equipment came from, where it has been and when it has been inspected.

In order to do this you should:

— Keep a record of where you purchased it from and when;

— Ensure the item has an identification number

— Be aware of when the next inspection is due

— Record all inspections

— Maintain all the above items for scrutiny

FALL ARREST BLOCK CABLE OR WEBBING

When checking the cable or webbing look for kinks, breaks, frays, tears and corrosion

How should I check it?

Withdraw it carefully then look and feel for faults as it retracts.

CONNECTORS ON LANYARDS OR FALL ARREST BLOCKS

When checking connectors such as karabiners, scaffold hooks or screw links you need to look for deformation, damage such as sharp edges, corrosion, cracks and check the function.

How should I check it?

By look, feel and test the function.



If you do not understand how to inspect you need training!