



## Personal Protective Equipment - PPM Regime

### Equipment Covered

Safety Harnesses, Lanyard with and without shock absorbers safety ropes ect.  
(Generally fall arrest equipment made from webbing or rope).

### Applicable Legislation

The inspection and recording of the above equipment is to be completed in line with manufacturer's recommendations and the following legislation:-

- **Regulation 7 of the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992.**  
*"(1) Every employer shall ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to his employees is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in an efficient working order and in good repair."*
- **PUWER - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998**
- **BS EN 365: 1993** - Personal protective equipment against falls from height. General requirements instructions for use and marking.
- **BS 8437: 2005 CoP** - For selection use and maintenance of personal fall protection equipment for use in the workplace.

### Schedule of Requirements

**BS 8437: 2005** – *"Prior to each occasion of use, pre use inspections should be completed by the user. 13.1.2 "Formal inspection procedures should be put in place by employers to ensure that all personal fall protection equipment is given a detailed inspection(thorough examination) by a competent person before first use and at intervals not exceeding six months (or three months where equipment is used in arduous conditions), and after circumstances liable to jeopardize safety have occurred."*

Dutyholders should establish a regime for inspection of fall protection PPE which should include:

- A list of the equipment to be inspected
- The frequency and type of inspection (pre-use checks, detailed and where appropriate interim inspections)
- Who will carry out the inspection
- Action to be taken on finding defects
- Training of users; and competent persons to carry out pre-use inspections.

### Brief resume of works completed during the inspection

- **Recording** - record the serial number, model number and year of manufacture of each piece of equipment inspected.
- **Contamination** - Equipment should not be contaminated in any way if covered in any substance it should be condemned.
- **Webbing** - Check all webbing thoroughly. For evidence of FRAYING, TEARS, CUTS, BURNS, MOULD, DICOLOURATION or CHEMICAL attack.
- **Stitching** - Every stitch pattern should be examined carefully for evidence of broken stitches, loosening, pulling or cuts.

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- **Buckles** - All buckles and “D” rings must be totally free from RUST PITTING, DISTORTION CRACKS or EXCESSIVE WEAR. Moving parts such as sliding buckles should move freely. Special attention should be given to the integrity of the connecting “D” rings.
- **Karabiners and snaphooks** -These should be checked as for buckles and “D” rings. All moving parts should be kept clean and lubricated with a silicon based spray. Ensure that the bar or snap closes itself fully and that the locking device prevents opening under very firm pressure. Check for misalignment of the closing bar or snap, and any distortion of the hook generally.
- **Rope Grabs and rope adjusters** - Inspect as for buckles and “D” rings. Also fully check that all moving and working parts are operating freely.
- **Ropes** - Check for loose strands, cuts, abrasions, excessive flattening on outer faces, chemical attacks, burns or evidence of powdered fibre. The length of the rope MUST be checked at least every three months against the AS NEW length. An extension of more than 10% indicates excessive and heavy loading/use and MUST immediately be withdrawn from service and destroyed. Strong sunlight can cause some degradation often indicated by bleaching. Age of rope is very important we need to note the age.
- **Storage** - Check that PPE is stored in a cool dry place that is not subject to direct heat or sunlight. The designated storage area should be exclusively for PPE and should ensure that no excessive strain, pressure, heat or humidity is exposed to any of the equipment. Wet or damp equipment should be allowed to dry naturally before storage.
- **Obsolescence** - A conservative estimate of the potential life of P&P fall protection products is 5 years (The majority of Manufacturers give their PPE a 5year life cycle) providing they are used, inspected, maintained and stored accordance with the product fitting/user instructions. However, the actual life will vary considerably with frequency of use and conditions under which the individual product is used and stored.

Within 14 days of the above, a report of the engineer’s findings will be produced if the PPE has passed the inspection, a certificate will be produced giving all relevant information, a copy of which will be provided to you and second copy will be kept in our records.

Should PPE not be tested by its due date then it MUST be taken out of service and not used until it has been re-inspected / examined.