



Fall Protection

eSafetyLine

Inspecting Your PFAS

PFAS is a very effective way to keep workers safe around fall hazards. Since it is made up of any different components, each must be careful inspected to help ensure they will work correctly when needed. The easiest way to inspect the whole system is to check each part individually.

Full Body Harness

The following should be completed before each use:

- Examine all nylon webbing for any burn marks, tears, frayed areas, broken fibers or pulled stitches anywhere on the harness.
- Examine D-ring for excessive wear, pits, cracks or deterioration of any kind.
- Check that all buckles are not deformed, cracked and will operate correctly.
- Be sure any rivets and grommets that are present are secure and not deformed in any way.
- Check tongue/straps for additional punched holes or excess wear from repeated buckling.

An annual inspection of the harness must be completed by a competent person.

Harnesses should be hung after each use, ideally in a closed cabinet, to protect them from damage when not in use. Any harness that has been involved in a fall must be destroyed.

Tie-Off Points

- Examine them for integrity and attachment to the solid surface
- Annual inspection of all tie-offs and anchorages by a competent person
- After a fall all tie-offs and anchorage points will be removed, destroyed and replaced.

Lanyards/Shock Absorbing Lanyards

Before each use the following must be inspected:

- Lanyard material must be checked for any damage, including cuts, burns, abrasions, kinks, knots and excessive wear.
- All locking mechanisms must remain locked once they've been locked.
- Shock absorber must be visually inspected for any signs of damage especially where the shock absorber attaches to the lanyard.

An annual inspection must be completed by a competent person. Storage of the lanyards is the same as for harnesses; hung, preferably in a closed cabinet for protection.

Self Retracting Lanyards/Lifelines

Before each use the following must be inspected:

- Visually inspect the body for any physical damage
- Check that all nuts and rivets are tight
- Entire length of nylon strap/wire rope must be free from any cuts, burns, abrasions, kinks, knots, broken stitches/strands, excessive wear and retracts easily.
- Test the unit by pulling sharply on the lanyard/lifeline to be sure the locking mechanism is working correctly.

There are two differences in the inspection procedure between the self-retracting lanyard/lifeline and the other components of a PFAS; a competent person must inspect them every month and after a fall, they can be inspected and reused if found to be undamaged. These lanyards/lifelines should be serviced according to manufacturer specifications, usually every 1 to 2 years. A thorough examination of a PFAS can help to keep employees safe even if a fall does occur.

Discussion Questions

What are the main differences between the inspection process of the self-retracting lanyard/lifeline and all other PFAS components?

What should be done if any part of the PFAS is found to be damaged or worn?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date