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Fall Protection Equipment Inspections

Instructor -- Chris Jenkins

Division -- Seattle

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Expiration Date -- Does not expire

Job Name -- SMMC

Foreman -- Jesse Prater

Attendance -- Jesse Prater, Chris Jenkins

Comments:

Fall protection equipment is only effective if it's in good working condition. Some of our most used fall protection equipment; a harness, SRL, beam strap, or beam clamp that looks okay at a glance might be hiding wear, damage, or corrosion that could cause it to fail during a fall. That's why inspections are not only required, but they're also essential to your safety.

The safety department or designated competent person perform **annual inspections** on all our fall protection equipment, and again when it comes back to the warehouse after use on a jobsite. However, **you, the user, are responsible for inspecting the equipment before each use.** A piece of gear may sit on a jobsite for days, weeks, or even years. If it's not stored properly, it can degrade faster than expected.

Your Pre-Use Inspection Responsibilities

Full Body Harness : what to inspect

Webbing - Check for cuts, frays, burns, mold, chemical damage, or excessive wear.

Stitching - Look for loose, broken, or pulled stitches: especially at connection points.

D-rings/Buckles - Ensure they're not cracked, corroded, or bent. Buckles should function properly and not jam or stick. (d-ring corrosion is a common problem with harnesses not properly dried out after working in the rain.)

Labels/Tags - Must be legible and present for proper identification and inspection tracking.

Self-Retracting Lifelines or Devices (SRLs or SRDs) : what to inspect

Housing - Check for cracks, dents, or other physical damage.

Cable/Webbing - Extend it fully to check for cuts, frays, rust, or burns.

Function Test - Let it retract and lock:listen for a clean, responsive engagement.

Carabiner/ Snap Hook - Inspect for deformation, corrosion, and ensure it locks properly.

Labels/Tags - Must be legible and present for proper identification and inspection tracking.

Beam Straps : what to inspect

Strap Material - Look for wear, fraying, chemical damage, or UV degradation.

Stitching - All threads should be intact.

D-Rings/Hardware - No corrosion, warping, or cracking.

Labels/Tags - Must be legible and present for proper identification and inspection tracking.

Beam Clamps : what to inspect

Body - Look for cracks, rust, excessive wear, or deformation.

Adjustment Mechanisms - Ensure it operates smoothly and locks securely.

Pins/Bolts - All pieces must be present and undamaged.

Labels/Tags - Must be legible and present for proper identification and inspection tracking.

What to Do If You Find Damaged Equipment

Red Tag It Immediately and clearly mark the equipment as **:DO NOT USE:** using red tape and a clearly marked tag.

Take It Out of Service - Remove it from the work area to prevent accidental use.

Notify Your Supervisor - So, the damaged equipment doesn't make it back into circulation.

Return It to the Warehouse - For further inspection, servicing, or destruction.

Remember This!

Your safety depends on the condition of your fall protection'take inspections seriously.
Stay safe and inspect before you connect.

Below are a few short instructional videos to help you review the proper inspection procedures for some of our most used fall protection equipment.

[How to Inspect and Don a Full Body Harness](#)

[How to Inspect your Self-Retracting Device](#)

[Lanyard & SRL Inspections](#)