

Care and Use of Fall Protection Equipment*



Fall protection is your lifeline to protect you from serious injury or death in the event of a fall. Damage to any of the equipment will reduce its effectiveness and increase the chance of failure which can lead to serious injury or death.

Key characteristics of fall protection equipment

Fall protection can be passive and/or active. Passive fall protection is fall nets, railings, and control zones. Active fall protection components are referred to as ABC:

A = Anchor

B = Body

C = Connectors

Each component can be affected by incorrect use and care. It only takes one weak link for the system to fail and put you at risk.

Associated risks

- Reduced life expectancy of the equipment
- Serious risk of injury or death to the equipment user
- A single weak component can increase risk to the user
- Incorrect use of equipment may result in equipment failure

Preventative next steps

Treat your fall protection equipment with respect. This equipment is meant to save your life.

- Establish a fall protection program and training that includes several levels of inspection to identify any faulty components. Inspection types are:
 - » pre-use inspection
 - » post-use inspection
 - » monthly inspection
 - » quarterly inspection
- Follow the removal from service process to ensure faulty components are not re-introduced into service
- Review your company policy on how to report and remove fall protection equipment from service:
 - » Remove any damaged equipment and components from use and tag out of service
 - » A qualified person should repair, send out for repair, decommission, or destroy the component

- When moving fall protection equipment and associated components:
 - » Transport in a proper container
 - » Do not store in your toolbox with other tools laying on top
 - » Do not drag the harness, lanyard, or associated parts
 - » Avoid extended exposure to the weather
 - » Do not expose to chemicals such as grease, caulking, silicone, or paint
 - » Do not write on the harness or lanyard. The ink in pens and permanent marker will weaken the material
 - » Only use harnesses and lanyards designated for welding and cutting
 - » Do not use carabiners as a striking tool
- Always follow the manufacturer's manual specific to the make and model of your fall protection system
- Rule of thumb: If in doubt, tag it out



For additional resources visit:

WorkSafeBC: OHS Regulation Part 11 [Fall Protection](#)

Canadian Standards Association: CSA Z259.17-16 [Selection and Use of Active Fall Protection Equipment and Systems](#)

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC: safetyalliancebc.ca

