

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES SAFETY HARNESSSES



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All fall arrest harnesses in Australia must comply with Australian Standard AS 1891.1 *Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices – Safety belts and harnesses*.
2. Safety harnesses must only be used for the purpose for which they were designed, and in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. All persons required to use a safety harness must receive instruction and training in their use before they are allowed to use the harness.
4. **See also SWPs:** *Fall arrest systems; Fall prevention; Rope access systems; Working at heights.*

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Marking	All belt, harness and lanyard assemblies and fall-arrest assemblies must be clearly and indelibly marked or permanently labelled by the manufacturer with the relevant information listed in the column at right.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The designation of the device, e.g., 'pole strap', 'lanyard assembly', etc, 2. The manufacturer's name, trade name or trade mark, 3. The serial number of the device, 4. The maximum allowable free fall (for lanyard assemblies and fall-arrest harnesses), 5. Any necessary instructions for assembly, fitting and putting-on, 6. A statement indicating that the device has a specific application (if applicable), 7. A statement indicating that the device is designed for use in one or more specific configurations together with any applicable limitations, e.g., attachment points (if applicable), 8. The location of the primary load-bearing attachment hardware for the attachment of lanyard assembly, pole strap or restraint line, and 9. The month and year by which the device must be taken out of service (this must be no more than 10 years from the date of manufacture). 	<p>Harnesses must only be used for the purpose for which they were designed. Use of harnesses for purposes other than those for which they were designed may result in failure of the device to provide the desired level of protection, or expose the wearer to unacceptable risk levels in the performance of the task being carried out.</p> <p>Safety harnesses more than 10 years old must not be used.</p>
2. Inspection	Equipment is to be removed from service if any of the conditions listed at right are detected during inspection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment is more than 10 years old, 2. Labels have been removed, or are missing, illegible or obliterated, 3. The device has been exposed to extremes of temperature (hot or cold), or if there is evidence of melting, stiffness or charring, 4. It has suffered damage from acids, caustics or organic solvents, 5. The device shows signs of excessive wear (e.g., "furry" or frayed), 6. The device shows signs of excessive general corrosion, pitting corrosion, or any cracked, distorted, burred, worn or broken hardware, 7. Knots in any part of the equipment, 8. Loss of resilience, discolouration, or other visible damage that causes doubts as to the strength of the equipment or its ability to withstand potential overloading, 9. Part mechanisms are not moving freely, 10 Reduction in the cross-sectional area of rope or webbing, or loose or unravelling of fibres, strands or stitching, or 11. Excessive contamination not able to be removed by approved cleaning methods. 	<p>Faulty or out-of-date equipment must not be used.</p>

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3. Use	Persons falling	Lay out harness after inspection to ensure that it is not “crossed” or tangled. Attach lanyard assembly to attachment point on rear of harness. Put on to body as any other garment of a similar type. Connect buckles, ensuring that belts are not crossed or twisted. Tighten belts until harness is firm on body (does not need to be over tight). Ensure that a full range of movements can still be carried out while wearing the harness. Recheck all belts and buckles – if any movement evident, harness should not be used .	Harnesses must be fitted correctly for safety in use. Return device to manufacturer or supplier for attention, or discard.
4. Withdrawal from service	Equipment must be removed from service if any of the events listed at right occur.	1. The equipment is involved in a fall, or 2. The equipment is more than 10 years old, or 3. The equipment is worn, damaged or deteriorated. Return device to manufacturer or supplier for attention, or discard.	Stressed or out-of-date equipment must not be used . Faulty equipment must not be used .
5. Maintenance		Normal cleaning of synthetic textile materials can be carried out with a mild soap and warm water. Do not use solvents or abrasive cleaners to wash or clean harness material. Check all belts, buckles and fittings for evidence of wear, distortion or damage. Do not allow any unauthorised repairs or replacement of parts. Store harnesses in cool dry area, hang from hooks to avoid tangling.	Contact manufacturer or supplier for specialist advice on cleaning. Use mild soap or cleaners only. Faulty equipment must not be used . Return device to manufacturer or supplier for attention, or discard.