

UTCA Safety Committee



Fall Protection Inspection and Maintenance

Fall Protection harnesses and body belts are designed for today's rugged work environments. To maintain their service life and high performance, harnesses and body belts should be inspected frequently.

Inspect thoroughly before each use. Regular inspection by a competent person for wear, damage or corrosion should be a part of your safety program. Replace the equipment if any of the defective conditions explained here are found.

Harness and Body Belt Inspection

Perform the following procedures:

Webbing/Stitches

Grasp the webbing with your hands 6 inches (152mm) to 8 inches (203mm) apart. Bend the webbing in an inverted "U" as shown. The surface tension resulting makes damaged fibers or cuts easier to detect. Follow this procedure the entire length of the webbing, inspecting both sides of each strap. Watch for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts, burns, and chemical damage.

D-Rings/Pads

Check D-rings for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. The D-ring should pivot freely. Inspect for any unusual wear, frayed or cut fibers, or broken stitching of the D-ring attachments. Pads should also be inspected for cracks, excessive wear, or other signs of damage.

Buckles

Inspect for any unusual wear, frayed or cut fibers, or broken stitching of the buckle attachments.

Tongue Buckles/Grommets

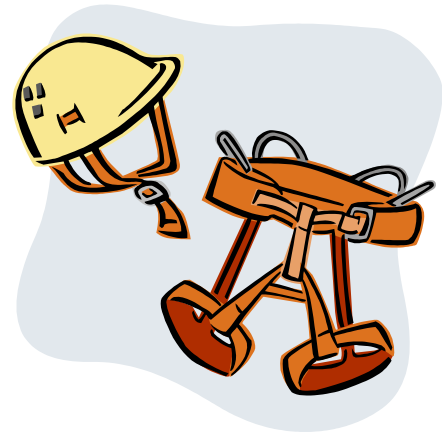
Buckle tongues should be free of distortion in shape and motion. They should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their socket. Roller should turn freely on frame. Check for distortion or sharp edges. Inspect for loose, distorted or broken grommets. Webbing should not have additional punched holes.

Harness Fall Arrest Indicators

Inspect fall arrest indicators (located on the back D-ring pad) for signs of activation. Remove from service if broken or stretched between any of the 4 pairs of arrows.

Falls are among the most common causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths. Please make sure you maintain your fall protection equipment and use it properly.

Sources: Miller Fall Protection and osha.gov.



Friction and Slotted Mating Buckles

Inspect the buckle for distortion. The outer bars and center bars must be straight. Pay special attention to corners and attachment points at the center bar.

Quick-Connect Buckles

Inspect the buckle for distortion. The outer bars and center bars must be straight. Make sure dual-tab release mechanism is free of debris and engages properly.

Date _____ Attended By : _____

