

Inspecting A Harness

The NL OH&S regulations, section 142 (5) states "An employer who provides a worker with a fall arrest system shall ensure the fall arrest system is inspected by a qualified person before each work shift undertaken by the worker".

To begin inspecting your harness, it is recommended to shake out the harness to rid of any tangles. To conduct a thorough inspection, a harness can be held in one hand, placed on a hook or it can lie on a flat surface.

Tag

Every harness must have a legible tag identifying the model #, date & name of manufacturer. Check the tag to determine if it is past its service life policy. There is equipment that have expiry dates or are recommended to be taken out of service after so many years.

Fall protection equipment must meet and reference the CSA standard Z259.10 but may also have the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) logo. Look for the logo on the tag of your harness. The logo means that the equipment has been manufactured to meet the requirements of a national standard. If the tag is not legible or is missing, the harness must be taken out of service.

Fall Arrest Indicator

Refer to manufacturers instructions to clearly identify where and what the fall arrest indicator is. The purpose and function of the fall arrest indicator is a warning that a fall has occurred in the harness, or the harness has experienced fall like forces.

If the inspection reveals the fall arrest indicator has been deployed, the equipment must not be used until it has been determined safe for use or taken out of service by a competent person.

Visual & Touch Inspection

Webbing

Grasp the webbing with your hands and bend the webbing, checking both sides. This creates surface tension, making it easier to see damages. Inspect both sides, end to end. Look for: tears, cuts, frays, abrasion, discoloration, burns, holes, mold, alterations or other signs of wear/damage and overall deterioration.

Stitching

Make sure to check the harness for missing, cut, or pulled stitching which can appear as tufts on the webbing surface. Check for hard or shiny spots, as this could indicate heat damage.

Hardware

Inspect hardware to ensure it is intact and undamaged. Check that moving parts work freely through their full range of motion. D-rings, buckles, accessory loops, etc. must all be operational, ensuring any springs that may be in place are in full working condition. Rivets and grommets must be holding tightly with no cracks or deformities, while tongue buckles should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back & forth. Any bars must be straight. It is also important to inspect hardware for the following:

Cracks	Sharp edges	Deformation
Corrosion	Chemical attack	Alterations
Excessive aging/wear.		

Guidelines

Manufacturer instructions on care/cleaning must followed. According to manufacturers', a detailed inspection must also be conducted, at least annually, by a competent person other than the user. Any equipment that fails inspection must be removed from service and/or returned to manufacturer for evaluation. Storage areas must be clean, dry, free of exposure to heat, fumes, and weather conditions.

