

# >> Lanyards and Classes

## Definition

A lanyard can be defined as a flexible line of webbing, synthetic rope, or wire rope, used to secure a worker to a lifeline, a static line, or a fixed anchor point. A lanyard's main job is to connect a worker's full body harness or body belt to the secure and approved anchorage location. They are a critical component of any personal fall arrest system. Lanyards can be adjustable, fixed, or retractable (self-retracting device).

## Options

When choosing the correct lanyard for your job task, always remember the following guidelines:

Always inspect your equipment before use.

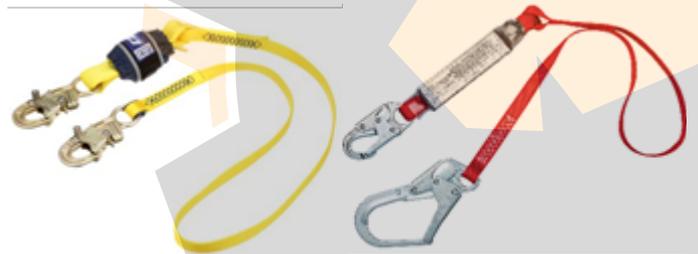
- Use lanyards with locking compatible snap.
- Do not snap around a sharp object and back onto itself.
- Use the shortest lanyard possible.
- Anchor as high as possible.
- Remember the pendulum swing (created when the anchorage is not located directly above the worker's head, causing a worker who has fallen to swing back and forth under the anchor point due to gravity).
- Use the appropriate material.
- Ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Lanyards are classified as follows:

**Class A:** Rope Lanyard. Often used for tasks while using travel restrict or to position the worker.



**Class B:** Web Lanyard. Durable webbing material, however, there is a risk of UV damage if not stored properly in a cool, dark place, and risk of burns if used around hot work such as welding.



**Class C:** Wire Rope Lanyard. Manufactured with high quality, high tensile strength steel cable. Wire rope lanyards are beneficial for hot work jobs like welding, or messy work like painting, but should not be used around electricity as the wire cable is a good conductor.



# >> Lanyards and Classes

**Class D:** Positioning Lanyard Including Lineman's Pole Straps. It supports the worker on an elevated vertical surface, such as a wall or pole, and allows them to work hands-free.



**Class E:** Chain Positioning Lanyard. Can be used for positioning work like rebar jobs, they allow a worker to work hands-free.



**Class F:** Adjustable Positioning Lanyard. Has the ability to adjust the length of the lanyard to the required length.



**Class Y:** Double Leg Lanyard. Consists of two lanyard legs which can allow workers to move horizontally from one area to another while being continuously attached to approved anchor points (100% tie off).

Another type of lanyard commonly used is the self-retracting device or lifeline (SRD). SRDs provide lower risk of injury to the fallen worker by minimizing the distance the worker falls, compared to the greater risk due to longer fall distance with a standard lanyard. Information on SRD's can be found here <https://www.nlcsa.com/downloads/2022-02-08%20Self%20Retracting%20Devices.pdf>.

Lanyards must be used, maintained, stored, and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Information such as maximum free fall distance, weight restrictions, and limitations will vary by equipment and manufacturer.