

What we recommend

The user (person preparing to use the equipment) should inspect the fall arrest system daily prior to use according to the following five point check.

During the inspection, should the user become aware of any fault or damage to any component of the fall arrest system, which fault or damage gives them reason to believe that the fall arrest system may not function optimally, the equipment must not be used. They should then also bring to the attention of management the evidence of the fault or damage so that immediate corrective action may be taken.

The fall arrest system may not be returned to service until such time as it is inspected by a competent person and then found to be fit to return to service.

Daily inspection method

Visually scrutinise the various components of the fall arrest system. Additionally conduct a tactile (touch) examination of lanyard webbing, according to the following guidelines.

Point one Webbing (including stitch blocks): the webbing must be intact and undamaged. A small (as small as 5mm) cut, hole or burn in the lanyard webbing at any point would render the fall arrest system unsafe for use.

Point two Labelling: the labels must clearly display all of the following information: name of manufacturer or distributor, serial number, date of product manufacture (month and year), recommended date of withdrawal from service and SABS mark (and applicable standard numbers).

Point three Energy absorbing element: the cover of the energy absorber must be intact. If it is apparent that the energy absorber may have been even partially deployed the fall arrest system must be withdrawn.

Point four Connectors (including hooks): connectors should only open by means of a double mechanical action, hooks should be spring loaded to close automatically if released.

Point five Other hardware (buckles and attachment points): each buckle set must be in good working order. Hardware must be complete and physically undamaged.

A small degree of corrosion of metal components, hooks and other hardware is tolerable provided these components remain in good working order.

Remember that the inspection benchmark is that should the inspector believe that the fall arrest system may not function optimally, then the equipment must not be used.

