EHS Fact Sheet

Harness and Lanyard Inspection

Introduction

Personal fall arrest systems are systems used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level. Personal fall arrest systems consist of an anchorage, connectors, a body belt or body harness, and may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline or a combination of these. Although fall arrest systems are a very useful protection tool, they must be inspected before each use for defects. If the inspection reveals defects, the equipment shall be removed from service immediately and tagged as “unusable”.

Harness Inspection

- **Stitching-** Inspect “critical stitching”, this will usually be in a contrasting color with the webbing. If stitches are broken or missing, the harness must be removed from service.
- **Webbing-** Inspect the webbing for cuts, tears, fraying, raveling of edges, any excessive wear or tearing, or any burns, including chemical. Additionally, webbing should be flexed into a “U” shape to reveal any broken fibers. Harnesses should also be stored away from sunlight to prevent sun damage.
- **Metal Components-I**nspect all metal components including “O-rings”, “D-rings”, leg grommets, any connecting hardware and adjustment hardware. Check metal components for cracks, distortion, corrosion and excessive wear.

Lanyard Inspection

- **Connectors and Snap Hooks-** Check that connectors are in full operation. Snap hooks should be equipped with a double locking mechanism. Also inspect for cracks, distortion and corrosion.
- **Webbing/ Wire Rope-** For webbing lanyards, inspect for abrasion, chemical burns and heat exposure. For wire rope, check for frayed cables, bird-caging or any crushed parts.
- **Shock Absorber-** Inspect the cover, ensure that the cover is not torn or damaged. Ensure the webbing is not stretched or missing stitches. Missing stitches or stretching could indicate that a fall has occurred.

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