Product Information Report
Fall Protection Harness Inspection

Overview

To maintain service life and high performance, harnesses should be inspected frequently, including thorough inspection before each use. Regular inspection by a competent person for wear, damage or corrosion should be a part of your safety program. Inspect equipment daily and replace it if any defects are found

Harness Inspection Procedures

Testing the webbing straps

Webbing Straps

Grasp the webbing with your hands 6" to 8" apart. Bend the webbing in an inverted U, as shown at the left. The resulting surface tension makes damaged or cut fibers easier to see. 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.

Testing the D-rings

D-rings

Check D-rings for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. The D-ring should pivot freely. Also check the attachment point of the D-ring to make sure it is secure.

Testing the buckles

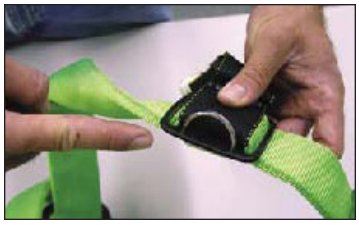
Buckles

These should be given special attention. Note any unusual wear, damage or distortion. On tongue buckles, check that the roller and tongue move freely and that the tongue overlaps the buckle frame. Check outer and center bars on friction and mating buckles for distortion.

Testing the stitching

Stitching

Check all stitching for ripped or pulled stitches and to make sure the webbing joints are not loose.



Testing the pads and D-rings

Pads and Lanyard D-rings

Check all pads on the harnesses for damage. Look for any cracks or excessive wear. Check all D-rings used for attaching single- or double-leg lanyards for damage and web integrity.

Types of Webbing Damage

Type of Webbing	Heat	Chemical	Molten Metal/Flame	Paints and Solvents
Nylon and Cordura	In excessive heat, nylon becomes brittle and has a brownish appearance. Fibers will break when flexed. Should not be used above 200°F (93°C).	Change in color usually appearing as a brownish smear or smudge. Transverse cracks appear when webbing is bent over a mandrel. Loss of elasticity in webbing.	Webbing strands fuse together. Hard, shiny spots. Hard and brittle feel.	Paint that penetrates and dries restricts movement of fibers. Drying agents and solvents in some paints will appear as chemical damage.
Polyester (Dacron)	Same as nylon, except not for use above 180°F (82°C).			

Equipment Care

Basic care of fall protection equipment will prolong its durable life and contribute to the performance of its vital safety function. Proper storage and maintenance after use are as important as cleaning the equipment of dirt, corrosives and contaminants. Storage areas should be clean, dry, and free of exposure to fumes or corrosive elements. Wipe off all surface dirt with a sponge dampened in plain water. Squeeze the sponge dry. Dip the sponge in a mild solution of water and commercial soap or detergent. Work up a thick lather, with a vigorous back and forth motion. Then wipe dry with a clean cloth. Hang freely to dry, but away from excessive heat, steam, or long periods of exposure to direct sunlight.