

# HOW TO INSPECT A HARNESS

## WHO - WHEN - WHY?

### WHO?

It is the responsibility of the **employer** and or equipment owner to ensure all Fall Arrest Equipment is inspected by a competent person, serviced in accordance the requirements of current legislation and the manufacturers recommendations.

**But it is the individual users responsibility to carry out all pre-use inspection of their issued equipment. In summary then, it is a collective responsibility.**

#### Definition of Competent Person as listed by ACWAHT:

A competent person is a person who can demonstrate that they have sufficient professional or technical training, knowledge, actual experience, and authority to enable them to:-

- \* Carry out their assigned duties at the level of responsibility allocated to them.
- \* Understand any potential hazards related to the work (or equipment) under consideration.
- \* Detect any technical defects or omissions in that work (or equipment), recognise any implications for health and safety caused by those defects or omissions, and be able to specify a remedial action to mitigate those implications.

### WHEN?

**BS EN 365:2004 Personal Protective Equipment Against Falls From a Height.** General requirements for instructions for use, maintenance, periodic examination, repair, marking and packaging gives general requirements for periodic inspection, instructions for use and marking of PPE against falls from a height. To counter the causes of degradation listed in the Introduction, the British Standard states that components should be examined 'at least twelve-monthly'.

**This is sometimes taken to be 'annually', although manufacturers of textile products usually recommend inspection more frequently than this.**

### HOWEVER!

It is recommended under the **HSE** guidance booklet **INDG367** that there is a detailed inspection at least **EVERY SIX MONTHS.**

For frequently used equipment it is suggested that this is increased to at least every three months, particularly when the equipment is used in arduous environments (eg demolition, steel erection, scaffolding, steel skeletal masts/ towers with edges and protrusions). Detailed inspections should be recorded. This statement is also mirrored by **BS8437:2005.**

**The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998** also states: Every employer shall ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to his employees is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

### WHY?

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations from 6 April 2022** states "every employer shall ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to his employees is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

**The Work at Height Regulations 2005** require that equipment which is exposed to conditions causing deterioration which is liable to result in dangerous situations should be inspected at suitable intervals and each time exceptional circumstances which might jeopardies safety have occurred.

It is further referenced by both **PUWER** and **LOLER** that equipment is inspected and maintained at suitable intervals and follows the recommendations of **BS:8437 2005 +A1: 2012.**

### REMOVE FROM SERVICE IF DEFECT FOUND

*"But most importantly Fall Arrest Equipment is designed to save your life in the event you should have an accident. Whether you are the owner, employer, employee or the competent person you all have a duty of care to a collective safety culture".*

### Back Plate

Look for cuts, tears, abrasions, chemical damage, discolouration, by visual and tactile means.

### Labelling

Traceability of the product is a legal requirement. All relevant information MUST be present and legible.

### Stitching

Look for cuts, tears, frays, chemical damage, discolouration, by visual and tactile means.

### Webbing

Look for cuts, tears, abrasions, chemical damage, discolouration, by visual and tactile means.

### Attachments

Look for deformation, distortion, cracks and or corrosion by visual and tactile means.

### Buckles

Look for deformation, damage such as corrosion, sharp edges and cracks. Check functionality – does it work as it should.

### Webbing Keepers

Look for cuts, breaks and damage by visual and tactile means. Are they missing?



**Safehold**  
HEIGHT SAFETY & LIFTING GEAR