

24-Hr Fall Protection Competent Person Module 8

Inspection, Maintenance, and Storage of Fall Protection Equipment

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Section 8.1 Inspection of Fall Protection Equipment

In order to ensure the extended service life and optimal performance of fall protection equipment, it is imperative to conduct routine inspections with the following requirements:

- Inspect fall protection and rescue equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and relevant regulations, or as directed by the CP.
 - Take out of service any equipment that is damaged, not functioning properly, or has experienced a fall.
- Prior to each use, the Authorized Person and Authorized Rescuer must examine personal fall protection and rescue equipment to confirm that it is in a safe working condition.
 - This includes a thorough examination of PFAS components, such as full body harnesses, lanyards, hooks, tie-off adapters, self-retracting lifelines, and temporary guardrails.
 - Any defective components must be promptly removed from service and reported to the supervisor for proper disposal.
- The CP is responsible for inspecting fall protection and rescue equipment at least annually (or more frequently if required by the manufacturer) and whenever equipment has experienced a fall.
 - This covers PFAS components such as harnesses, lanyards, straps, and ropes, all of which must be inspected for damage and any identified issues must be addressed promptly.
 - Check for cuts, wear, tears, damaged threads, broken fibers, stretching, torn stitches, frayed edges, mold, alterations, deteriorations, discoloration, abrasions, burn or chemical damage, UV deterioration, missing markings or labels, and any internal deterioration.
 - Hardware (snaphooks, carabiners, connectors, and dee-rings) should be inspected for signs of excessive wear, cracks, corrosion, and deformation.
 - This consists of distorted hooks or faulty springs, tongues unfitted to the shoulder buckles, loose or damaged mountings, and non-functional parts.
 - These inspections must be properly documented.
 - Records of the inspections should be maintained for review by the Environmental Health and Safety department.
- Equipment exposed to a fall should be immediately removed from service, tagged, and disposed of accordingly.
- Inspect safety nets in adherence to the manufacturer's instructions and relevant regulations, such as ANSI/ASSP A10.11 and 29 CFR 1926.502.
 - Remove and replace any damaged or defective nets.
 - These inspections must be documented.

Section 8.2 Maintenance of Fall Protection Equipment

It is crucial to maintain fall protection equipment properly. These guidelines should be followed:

- Adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for the maintenance of fall protection equipment.
- When not in use, the equipment should be hung in a cool, dry location in a manner that preserves its shape.
- Cleaning should be carried out using a mild, nonabrasive soap, followed by air drying.

Section 8.3 Storage of Fall Protection Equipment

It is equally important to store fall protection equipment correctly. Consider the following tips:

- Adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for the storage of fall protection equipment.
- Store the equipment away from excessive heat, chemicals, moisture, or direct sunlight.
 - The equipment should not be stored in areas with exposure to fumes or corrosive elements.
- Store the equipment in a manner that prevents the buildup of dirt or other residues.
- Avoid storing equipment in the bottom of a toolbox, on the ground, or outdoors where it may be exposed to the elements (sunlight and rain).

Section 8.4 Fall Protection Requirements for Inspection, Investigation, or Assessment Work

When doing inspection, investigation, or assessment work during construction, employees exposed to fall hazards need to have fall protection in place. This includes the following:

- A guardrail, safety net, or personal fall protection system must be within six feet from an unprotected edge of a roof or other walking or working surface.
 - The use of a warning line system or designated area is not allowed in this case.
 - A written plan must be developed for this activity and submitted for approval.
- If the inspection, investigation, or assessment work is more than six feet from an unprotected edge of a roof, fall protection might not be required.
 - However, a written plan is still needed and must be submitted for approval.
- During maintenance activities such as inspecting or maintaining equipment on roofs, fall protection is always required.