

The Work at Height Safety Association

Technical Guidance Note 1

“Considerations for the use of personal fall protection equipment”

A series of informative notes for all industries involved with work at height or rescue.

The Work at Height Safety Association (WAHSA) is a UK trade association for manufacturers of equipment for work at height and rescue. This series of guidance notes is published by WAHSA to provide information on topical issues relating to work at height which may be a source of confusion, or where other information may be lacking. The information provided is only intended to apply within the UK.

They should be regarded by readers as a source of information only and are not intended to be exhaustive, or to indicate any specific course of action.

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WAHSA technical guidance note no. 1

Considerations for the use of personal fall protection equipment

Introduction

This information sheet gives very brief guidance on points to consider when selecting and using personal fall protection equipment such as anchor devices, harnesses and lanyards.

It is intended for employers, supervisors and users of such equipment, as an indication of the types of issues which should be considered. It is summary guidance only. The order of items is not significant.

Training

WAHSA strongly recommend that all users of fall protection equipment are trained by a competent organisation. Training should include information on the selection of the correct products for intended work situation and pre-use checks for specific equipment.

10 considerations for the use of fall protection equipment

1. Suitability - have I got the right equipment? Is it fit for purpose?
2. Condition - has the equipment suffered from wear and tear? Is it fit for use?
3. Traceability - do I know the history of the equipment? Has it been cared for properly?
4. Compatibility - does it function effectively with other products?
5. Security - is the equipment (both individual item and system) fastened properly to prevent release?
6. Anchorages - are proper anchors available for intended method? (Strength and position).
7. Fit - Does it fit? Am I the right size and weight for the manufacturer's specification?
8. Age - has the equipment exceeded its recommended lifespan?
9. Clearance - is there a safe working height to allow equipment to deploy properly ?
10. Selection - is the product suitable for the particular situation?

This leaflet and others in the series is available from the WAHSA website. The full series is as follows:

TGN 01	10 points for the use of fall protection equipment
TGN 02	Guidance on selection, use, maintenance and inspection of retractable fall arresters.
TGN 03	Guidance on inspecting personal fall protection equipment
TGN 04	Guidance on the use of single and twin energy absorbing lanyards.
TGN 05	Guidance on rescue after a fall from height
TGN 06	Guidance on inspecting eyebolts used for personal fall protection purposes
TGN 07	Sources of information relating to work at height