



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
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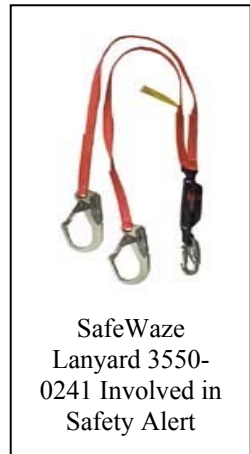
SIP TIP: FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

Recent Manufacturing Defect Highlights the Need for Equipment Inspection

Recently, SafeWaze reported on an error during the manufacturing process for their webbed lanyards. This problem was brought to the company's attention when a user of that product reported that one leg of the lanyard pulled apart.

On the nylon webbing was a section that was sheared and subsequently taped during spooling before it was shipped to SafeWaze, which passed it on to distributors. Taping webbed products when spooling them before shipment is a common practice; the problem in this case was that the tape concealed that the seam was open and unfinished. SafeWaze has indicated they will use an alternative method for labeling fall protection products to avoid sheared or damaged items from being shipped to distributors in the future. While SafeWaze has agreed to perform a free inspection of the SafeWaze products, consumers performing their own inspections have been instructed to remove any adhesive tape in order to determine if (A) there is a seam in the web, and (B) there is any evidence of damage or defects beneath the tape.

For more information, please call Richard Crifasi at 704-674-3845 or email him at Richard.P.Crifasi@IDG-Corp.com



Recommendations for Inspecting All Your Fall Protection Equipment

The following are some of the common causes of wear, damage, and deterioration of fall protection equipment. In all cases, follow the manufacturers' recommendations for taking equipment out of service.

Cuts and Tears

Inspect the webbing for cuts, tears and holes. The webbing will become damaged or worn from constant contact with tools, equipment, and materials. Look at all areas, including the edges and around the snaphooks, buckles, and connectors. Look for off-colored threads. This may be a damage indicator thread.

Connectors and Snaphooks

Make sure the hardware acts properly and is not deformed. Snaphooks must be double-action in a fall protection application (two finger motions in order to open the hook).

Burns or Deteriorated Areas

Chemical contact, welding and cutting, and molten metal: these can all deteriorate fall protection equipment, especially those with nylon webbing. Chemicals spilled onto the equipment can soak in, not revealing hidden damage.

Fading

Sun exposure will subject the equipment to ultra-violet (UV) rays. While some of the equipment currently on the market has UV protective covers and fabrics, older equipment was not designed as such. Stiff or faded harnesses should be inspected by the competent person.

Excessive Dirt

Dirt can get into gaps in fabrics, openings in equipment, and between wire in wire rope lanyards and lifelines. The abrasive action of the dirt will deteriorate the equipment and may cause it not to function properly. Keep you equipment clean.

REMINDER: DON'T INSPECT YOUR EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OSHA SAYS YOU HAVE TO. DO IT TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!