

Inspection

Harnesses

Inspect the harness material. Hold the material/webbing in an inverted “U” with the body side toward the body and hands 6 in. (152 mm) apart. Inspect the entire length, looking for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts or chemical damage. Broken strands appear as tufts on the webbing surface. Broken, cut or burned stitches are easily seen.

Inspect buckles and D-rings. Make sure both are firmly attached. Inspect condition of D-ring and metal wear pads. Buckle tongues should be undamaged, overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth. The roller should turn freely on the frame. Look for sharp edges. On friction buckles, make sure outer and center bars are straight. Pay particular attention to corners and attachment points of the center bar. On sliding bar buckles, inspect the frame and sliding bar for cracks, distortion or sharp edges. The bar should glide freely. Pay special attention to the corners and ends of the sliding bar.

Check belt ends to make sure grommets are still in place. Belts with grommet-less holes should be checked for torn or elongated holes.

Carefully inspect each harness each time it is used. At least once every 3 months, harnesses should be examined by a trained inspector. Maintain each harness according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Lifelines

Examine the surface of manila rope for cuts and worn or broken fibers. Discard any rope that has become smaller in diameter or has a smooth look. Inspect inner fibers of the rope for breaks, discoloration and deterioration; discard if it shows any of these signs.

Examine wire rope for broken strands, rust and kinks that may weaken it. Ropes must be kept clean, dry and rust-free. They should be lubricated frequently, especially before use in acidic atmospheres or before exposure to salt water. After such use, it should be carefully cleaned and coated with oil.

Polypropylene rope can be weakened by heat, continued exposure to direct sunlight and broken or cut strands. Examine the cover yarn frequently for signs of damage or deterioration.

Carefully inspect lines each time they are used. Inspect and maintain according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Rope Grabs

Clean rope grabs before each use. Do not allow them to become dirty or sticky during use. Inspect before each use to make sure there are no worn, bent or weakened parts. Replace and discard worn components immediately.

Inspect and maintain rope grabs according to manufacturer’s instructions.