

## PPE Safety Harnesses

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Workplace hazards that may require the use of safety harnesses if fall hazards cannot be addressed in another manner include:

- Unprotected sides and edges in raised areas.
- Holes or openings in roofs, floors, or other raised areas
- Runways or similar walkways
- Dockboards
- Dangerous equipment
- Repair pits, service pits, and assembly pits

### Selection of Safety Harnesses

There are many different types of safety harnesses available. Use your facility's workplace hazard assessment to determine the appropriate type of harness for your task. Choose a harness that is:

- Made of appropriate materials to suit your task/hazards
- Configurable to support your various operations
- Appropriately sized for the employee
- Compliant with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359.11 Standard

### Proper Use of Safety Harnesses

Keep your harness effective by properly using and caring for it.

- Do not drop your harness on the ground from any height.
- Never alter the harness by cutting or punching holes.
- Do not let the harness contact:
  - o Sharp or abrasive objects.
  - o Acids, caustics, or other corrosive materials.
  - o Paints or coatings.
- Never use a defective or worn harness.
- Wear your harness over your base layer of clothing.

### Inspection Criteria

Inspect your harness at a minimum before use. When inspecting the harness, look at both the webbing and the hardware.

Common inspection concerns for the webbing (fabric portions) include:

- Fraying
- Holes
- Cuts
- Missing or damaged straps
- Stretching
- Any other signs of excessive wear or damage

Common inspection concerns for the hardware (D-rings, buckles, connectors, etc.) include:

- Twists/bends
- Rust
- Tongue buckle movement ease
- Crooked/bent bars
- Damaged springs
- Cracks/breaks
- Rough/sharp edges

Remember: If a user sustains a fall, the harness used in the fall must be taken out of service, even if there is no visible damage.

### Safety Harnesses Best Practices

Safety harnesses are critical in conjunction with other PPE to keep the user safe at work.

- Replace harnesses as needed:
  - o If the harness is found to be defective, damaged, or excessively worn, remove it from service immediately.
  - o If the harness is subjected to in-service loading, such as a fall, remove it from service immediately.
  - o Harnesses must also be replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions and timeline.
- To wash the harness:
  - o Wipe the harness with warm water and mild soap.
  - o Rinse with warm water.
  - o Wipe the wet harness with a clean, dry cloth.
  - o Let it dry slowly at room temperature.
  - o Do not expose the wet harness to extreme temperatures, chemicals, or sunlight.
- Store harnesses safely in separate, dry compartments or hang them so that they will not be crushed, worn, or creased.