



PRE-USE CHECK OF HARNESSES AND LANYARDS FOR USE IN MEWPS TOOLBOX TALK

WHY ARE PRE-USE CHECKS OF PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PFPE) IMPORTANT?

Harnesses and lanyards prevent severe injury or death by preventing falls from MEWPs, therefore it is essential that you check the condition and function before every use.

Through use, PFPE could become damaged, worn or lose parts. These checks must be repeated before every use.

WHAT ARE THE PRE-USE CHECKS?

- Verify the service inspection has not expired
- You must check the safe condition of the:
 - Harness webbing and lanyard webbing, or rope
 - Connecting buckles on the harness
 - Adjustment buckles on the harness or lanyard
 - Attachment points on the harness
 - Stitch patterns on the harness and lanyard
 - Connecting karabiner or snap hooks
- All labels and Serial Numbers (SN) are legible



WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox talk applies to:

- Any operator or passenger in the platform
- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- Site manager and supervisors

HOW SHOULD I DO THIS?

Three basic means of inspection should be used for pre-use checks of harness and lanyards:

- **Look** (do a visual comparison of two like elements to find differences or damage)
- **Feel** (run your fingertips run over the synthetic material. This will provide a fast and accurate check for damaged fibres)
- **Function Check** (karabiners, snap hooks, adjustment and connection buckles all need function checks)

If in doubt refer to the IPAF harness and lanyard pre-use check poster!

DO I NEED TO KEEP A RECORD?

It is a good practice to record evidence of the pre-use check, however, there is no statutory requirement to record pre-use checks of PFPE.

WHAT IF THE PFPE IS FAULTY?

If you believe a fault will affect the safe use of the PFPE, then you must:

1. **Isolate** the PFPE
2. **Tag** and remove the PFPE from service
3. **Report** the fault to your employer

Never use faulty PFPE



USEFUL REFERENCES

- Andy Access A21 PFPE Pre-Use Check poster (available at www.ipaf.org/andyaccess)
- SpanSet Harness and Lanyard Inspection app and pocket card
- PPE Regulations
- BS 8437:2005+A1:2012: Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace