

SAFE USE OF 20M WEBBING HORIZONTAL SAFETY LINE

Applies to: Portable webbing horizontal safety line systems up to 20 metres

✓ Purpose

A portable 20m webbing horizontal safety line provides a temporary line between two suitable anchor points for personal fall protection. This leaflet gives guidance for safe installation, tensioning, inspection and use to help prevent falls, loss of tension, equipment damage or failure.

⚙ Before Use

- **Inspect the complete system** - Check the webbing for cuts, fraying, abrasion, burns, chemical damage, UV deterioration, damaged stitching or contamination. Check the tensioning body, locking pawl/teeth, handle, hooks, connectors and end fittings for damage, distortion, corrosion or excessive wear.
- **Check identification** - Ensure the product label and inspection details are present and legible. Confirm the system is within its inspection period and is suitable for the intended span and number of users.
- **Verify anchor points** - Use only suitable, approved structural anchor points positioned and rated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Do not attach to handrails, pipework, scaffold components or other structures unless specifically approved for the purpose.
- **Confirm compatibility** - Use only compatible full-body harnesses, lanyards, fall arrest blocks, connectors and accessories specified for the system and task.
- **Plan the work** - Complete a risk assessment and rescue plan. Confirm adequate fall clearance and consider line deflection, swing-fall hazards, sharp edges and obstructions below the work area.
- **Remove slack before tensioning** - After connecting both ends, manually pull the webbing tight between the anchors to remove as much loose webbing as possible before operating the tensioning mechanism.
- **Ensure user competence** - Installation and use must only be carried out by trained and authorised personnel who understand the manufacturer's instructions and the site rescue arrangements.

📌 During Operation

- **Tension correctly** - Once the webbing has been manually pulled tight, use the tensioning mechanism only to achieve the manufacturer's required operating tension. Do not use the mechanism to wind in a large amount of loose webbing.
- **Check positive lock engagement** - Confirm the locking pawl is fully engaged with the ratchet teeth and the mechanism is secure before the line is used.
- **Keep webbing flat and aligned** - The webbing must run centrally through the mechanism without twists, folds or bunching.
- **Watch for webbing build-up** - Excess webbing wrapped around the tensioning unit can force the locking mechanism away from the teeth. If engagement is not positive, stop, release the system and reinstall with the slack removed manually.
- **Stay connected correctly** - Attach only in the manner specified by the manufacturer and maintain continuous protection while exposed to a fall hazard.
- **Protect the line** - Keep webbing away from sharp edges, hot work, welding spatter, chemicals, moving machinery and abrasive surfaces.

⊘ Do Not

- Use the tensioning mechanism to take up large amounts of loose webbing.
- Use the system if the locking pawl does not fully and positively engage with the ratchet teeth.
- Exceed the manufacturer's maximum span, number of users or system rating.
- Use damaged, contaminated, modified or unidentified equipment.
- Tie knots in the webbing, twist the line or shorten it by wrapping it around structures.
- Connect to unsuitable or unapproved anchor points.
- Use the safety line for lifting, towing, restraint of loads or any purpose other than its intended personal fall-protection function.
- Continue using the system following a fall arrest, shock load, loss of tension, suspected overload or damage. Withdraw it from service for inspection.

📌 After Use

- Release tension in a controlled manner in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Keep hands clear of moving parts and stored tension.
- Inspect the webbing, locking teeth/pawl, reel area, tensioning mechanism and connectors for wear, deformation or damage before storage.
- Tag out and report any defective, shock-loaded or questionable equipment immediately. Do not return it to service until assessed by a competent person.
- Clean only in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance. Allow wet webbing to dry naturally before storage.

- Store in a clean, dry, ventilated area away from direct sunlight, chemicals, excessive heat, sharp objects and contamination.
- Maintain inspection and examination records in accordance with company procedures and the manufacturer's requirements.

Safety Reminders

- Always follow the manufacturer's specific installation, tensioning, inspection and user instructions. Where those instructions differ from this leaflet, the manufacturer's instructions take priority.
- A pre-use check is required before each installation/use. Formal inspection or thorough examination must be completed at the intervals required by the manufacturer and applicable company/legal requirements.
- This is life-safety equipment. If there is any doubt about condition, locking engagement, anchors, tension or correct installation, do not use the system.
- Ensure a suitable rescue plan is in place before work starts. Suspension following a fall can create a serious medical emergency.
- Use appropriate PPE for the task, including a compatible full-body harness and connecting device. Additional site PPE may also be required.
- After any fall arrest, impact loading or suspected malfunction, quarantine the complete system until it has been inspected and declared fit for further use.

Support and Maintenance

For service, inspection, and spare parts, contact your local Lifting Gear and Safety Depot

Depot List

Bristol: 0117 9714883
Avonmouth: 0117 9550456
Newport: 01633 334450
Port Talbot: 01639 540007
Pembroke: 01646 574000
Plymouth: 01752 474488
Fareham: 01329 550988
Redruth: 01209 703990