Attachment 1 – Inspecting, Cleaning, and Storing Fall Protection Equipment

Body wear and connecting devices must have an undocumented inspection before each use by the FPE user, and a documented inspection not less than twice annually by a competent person in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

Only Sharpie brand permanent markers are permitted to be used to mark equipment.

The criteria for checking harness, body belt, lanyard, and lifeline during both inspections is included in this document.

This information was obtained from resources provided by Miller By Sperian.
Harness and Body Belt Inspection

To inspect a harness or body belt, perform the following procedures.

**Webbing** – Grasp the webbing with your hands 6 inches (152 mm) to 8 inches (203 mm) apart. Bend the webbing in an inverted “U”. The surface tension resulting makes damaged fibers or cuts easier to detect. Webbing damage may not show up through a sight inspection only and a manual inspection is important. Follow this procedure the entire length of the webbing, inspecting both sides of each strap. Look for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts, hard or shiny spots, burns and chemical damage.

**D-Rings/Back Pads** – Check D-rings for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. The D-ring should pivot freely. Inspect for any unusual wear, frayed fibers, cut fibers, and broken stitching of the D-ring attachments. D-ring back pads should also be inspected for cracks, excessive wear, or other damage.

**Attachment of Buckles** – Inspect for any unusual wear, frayed or cut fibers, broken stitching of the buckle attachments, or distortion of the buckle.

**Tongue/Grommets** – The tongue receives heavy wear from repeated buckling and unbuckling. Inspect for loose, distorted grommets, broken grommets, rust and corrosion. Webbing should not have additional punched holes.

**Tongue Buckles** – The tongue buckles should be free of distortion in shape and motion. They should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their socket. Roller should turn freely on frame. Check for distortion, sharp edges, and heavy wear from use.

**Friction and Mating Buckles** – Inspect the buckle for distortion. The outer bars and center bars must be straight. Pay special attention to corners and attachment points at the center bar.

**Quick Connect Buckles** – Inspect the buckle for distortion. The outer bars and center bars must be straight. Make sure dual tab release mechanism is free of debris and engages properly.

**Harness and Fall Arrest Indicators** – Inspect fall arrest indicators located on the back of the D-ring pad for signs of activation. Remove from service if broken or stretched between any of the four pairs of arrows.

**Labels** – Every harness must have a legible tag identifying the harness, model, date of manufacture, name of manufacture, limitations, and warnings. Check tag for date of manufacture and remove from service if past adopted service life policy according to manufacturer’s instructions. Make sure all labels are securely held in place and are legible. If tagging system is missing or not legible remove harness from service.
Lanyard Inspection

When inspecting lanyards, begin at one end and work to the opposite end, slowly rotating the lanyard so that the entire circumference is checked. Additionally, follow the procedures below.

**Steel Lanyards** - While rotating the steel lanyards check for cuts, frayed areas, unusual wearing and broken strands.

**Rope Lanyard** - Rotate the rope lanyard while inspecting from end-to-end for any fuzzy, worn, broken or cut fibers. Weakened areas from extreme loads will appear as a noticeable change in original diameter. The rope diameter should be uniform throughout, following a short break in period. The splice shall not have loose or cut strands.

**Web Lanyard** - While bending webbing over a pipe or mandrel, observe each side of the webbed lanyard. This will reveal any cuts, snags, breaks, knots, and hard or shiny spots. Look for signs of chemical and heat damage for example swelling, discoloration, cracks, and charring. Observe closely for any breaks in stitching or pulled stitches. Inspect lanyard warning flag for signs of activation or if applicable measure lanyard to determine activation.

**Wire Rope Lanyard** - Wear gloves to protect hands during inspection. While rotating the wire rope lanyard, watch for cuts, frayed areas, rust, pitting, corrosion, distorted strands, bulges in rope, gaps between strands, or unusual wearing patterns on the wire. Broken strands will separate from the body of the lanyard.

**Shock Absorber Pack** - The outer portion of the pack should be examined for burn holes and tears. Stitching on areas where the pack is sewn to D-rings, belts or lanyards should be examined for loose strands, rips, deterioration, or other signs of activation.

**Shock-Absorbing Lanyard** - Shock-absorbing lanyards should be examined as a web lanyard however, also look for the warning flag or signs of deployment. If the flag has been activated, remove this shock-absorbing lanyard from service.

**Labels** - Every lanyard must have a legible tag identifying the lanyard, model, date of manufacture, name of manufacture, limitations, and warnings. Check tag for date of manufacture and remove from service if past adopted service life policy according to manufacturer’s instructions. Make sure all labels are securely held in place and are legible. If tagging system is missing or not legible remove lanyard from service.

**Hardware**

**Snaps** - Inspect closely for hook and eye distortions, cracks, corrosion, or pitted surfaces.

**Keeper** - The keeper (latch) should seat into the nose without binding and should not be distorted or obstructed. The keeper spring should exert sufficient force to firmly close the keeper. Keeper locks must prevent the keeper from opening when the keeper closes.

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Thimbles - The thimble must be firmly seated in the eye of the splice, and the splice should have no loose or cut strands. The edges of the thimble must be free of sharp edges, distortion, rust, and cracks.
Self-Retracting Lifeline Inspection

When inspecting a lifeline follow the procedures below.

**Check Housing** – Before every use, inspect the unit’s housing for loose fasteners and bent, cracked, distorted, worn, malfunctioning or damaged parts.

**Lifeline** – Test the lifeline retraction and tension by pulling out several feet of the lifeline and allow it to retract back into the unit. Always maintain a light tension on the lifeline as it retracts. The lifeline should pull out freely and retract all the way back into the unit. Do not use the unit if the lifeline does not retract. The lifeline must be checked regularly for signs of damage. Inspect for cuts, burns, corrosion, kinks, frays or worn areas. Inspect any sewing (web lifelines) for loose, broken or damaged stitching.

**Braking Mechanism** – The braking mechanism must be tested by grasping the lifeline above the impact or load indicator and applying a sharp steady pull downward which will engage the brakes. There should be no slippage of the lifeline while the brakes are engaged. Once tension is released, the brakes will disengage and the unit will return to the retractable mode. Do not use the unit if the brakes do not engage.

**Check the hardware as directed in the Lanyard Inspection section of this attachment.**

The snap hook load indicator is located in the swivel of the snap hook. The swivel eye will elongate and expose a red area when subjected to fall arresting forces. Do not use the unit if the load impact indicator has been activated.

**Snap Hook**- Check the snap hook to be sure that it operates freely, locks, and the swivel operates smoothly. Inspect the snap hook for any signs of damage to the keepers and any bent, cracked, or distorted components.

**Anchorage Connection**- Make sure the carabiner is properly seated in the locked position between the attachment swivel point on the device and the anchor point.
Cleaning and Storing Equipment

Follow all manufacturer instructions for cleaning and storing equipment. Basic care of all safety equipment will increase the durable life of the equipment and contribute to high performance of the equipment safety function. Proper storage and maintenance after use and cleaning the equipment to remove dirt, corrosives, or contaminants are important.

Equipment should be stored in areas that are clean and dry. Storage areas should be free of exposure to fumes, heat, direct ultra violet light, sunlight, and corrosive elements. Do not store near batteries since if the batteries leak chemical damage can occur.

Basic information for cleaning equipment is included below. Follow all manufacturer instructions.

**Cleaning Nylon or Polyester** - Remove all surface dirt with a sponge dampened in plain water. Squeeze the sponge dry. Dip the sponge in a mild solution of water and mild detergent. Work up a thick lather with a vigorous back and forth motion, then wipe dry with a clean cloth. Hang freely to dry, but away from excessive heat.

**Cleaning Housing** - Periodically clean the unit using a damp cloth and mild detergent. Towel dry.

**Drying Equipment** - Equipment should dry thoroughly without close exposure to heat, steam, or long periods of sunlight.