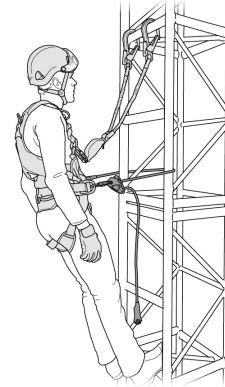


Personal fall protection equipment (PFPE)

When the risk of falls from height cannot be eliminated by the use of collective measures such as working platforms with barriers and guardrails, then the use of fall-arrest equipment may be the only option.

If a worker is required to move around the area where there is the potential to fall, then personal fall protection equipment (PFPE) must be used to reduce the distance, and mitigate the consequences of a fall.

All PFPE must be manufactured to the relevant British and European standards.



Considerations before use

- Ensure that a risk assessment is carried out, and that it justifies the use of PFPE.
- Make sure that an emergency rescue plan is in place, and is understood by all involved in the activity.
- Determine if the harness and belt selected are the most suitable for the operation and the hazards.
- Ensure that the operatives who are to use the equipment are adequately trained in its inspection and use, and on any specialist equipment required for rescue.
- Make sure that the equipment is all in good order and fit for purpose.
- Ensure that there is a secure and appropriately positioned anchorage point available.
- Make sure that checks have been made regarding the weather conditions, and that these will not put workers at additional risk.
- Ensure that mandatory pre-use visual equipment checks have been conducted to determine if there is any wear and/or damage to the following parts of equipment:
 - Webbing
 - Stitching
 - D-rings and buckles
 - Rivets and eyelets
 - Hook or safety latch
 - Deceleration device.
- Make sure that detailed and up-to-date records are retained for the examination of the equipment.
- Ensure that there is a certification tag present.
- Make sure that adequate warning signs are displayed to notify other workers and members of the public.

Considerations during use

- Ensure that safety lines have been set up by a competent person.
- Make sure that only authorised, trained and competent personnel use the equipment.
- Ensure that a strict behavioural code of conduct is set out and enforced.
- Follow the rescue plan in the event of an emergency.

Considerations after use

- Make sure that the equipment is inspected for any damage.
- Ensure that defects are reported promptly and records updated.
- Make sure that any defective equipment is quarantined (if it can be repaired) or discarded.
- Ensure that the equipment is cleaned and stored correctly in a cool, dry place with no direct sunlight.

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