

Technical Bulletin

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Subject: Use of Self-Retracting Lifelines on Drilling and Service Rigs

On drilling or service rigs, a hazard exists where an SRL cable or webbing could contact a structural girder or column edge due to anchorage locations or necessary movement of a worker.

The following guidelines must be followed when using SRL's on drilling rigs or in horizontal applications where a SRL may contact a structural edge:

1. Swing fall hazards may exist, especially when working near corners, or away from the SRL. The potential for a swing fall should be reduced by minimizing the potential fall distance, increasing fall clearance or by removing the hazard to prevent collision with an object.
2. When the SRL is anchored away from the worker, fall distances may be greater than when the device is installed directly above the user. Therefore, increased clearance distances may be required to prevent striking a lower level or obstruction.
3. Where the potential to impact on a structural edge exists, Capital Safety Australia recommends that a **Z6 energy absorber** be connected in-line between the SRL's snap hook and the harness D-ring to reduce the arrest forces from falling over an edge. **DO NOT** use energy absorbing lanyards or simple lanyards for this purpose. (See Technical Bulletins SRL001AU and SRL002AU)
4. Sharp edges which the lifeline may contact during a fall could cut or damage the SRL's lifeline. Sharp edges must be avoided or covered. Guard against fall situations where the lifeline may slide along a sharp edge.
5. All applicable user instruction manuals should be reviewed and followed.
6. Employee training should be conducted to help ensure a safe working environment.