



Technical Bulletin

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Subject: Product Life, Inspection and Certification of Fall Protection Equipment

Product Life

According to AS/NZS 1891.1, web products shall have a 10 year product life from the date of manufacture, after which the product must be removed from service. All other Capital Safety equipment, such as type 1 fall arrestors and type 2 or 2/3 self-retracting lifelines, can be used as long as the inspection does not reveal any damage or wear that will affect the product's performance. These products must be inspected and certified according to the manufacturer's user instructions or AS/NZS 1891.4 requirements.

Activation Date

Typically the activation date is used to determine the next inspection or recertification and can be defined as any of the following:

- date of manufacture (on the product label)
- date of purchase
- date of last service
- date first put into service (written documentation of this date is required)

If an inspection is to be based on the date of first use instead of the manufacture, purchase or service date, it must be recorded in the inspection/maintenance log found in the user instruction manual.

If the activation date is unknown, the product purchase/service/manufacture date should be used to determine when the product is due for inspection or recertification. Prior to placing a product into service, the product shall be properly stored according to the user instruction manual.

Inspection Frequency

Inspection frequency requirements must be followed according to AS/NZS 1891.4 or Capital Safety’s user instructions. Capital Safety may recommend more frequent inspection and recertification if the product is exposed to a harsh environment or rugged use. All inspection and maintenance data must be recorded in an inspection and maintenance log maintained by the company. Consult the user instruction manuals for complete details and information.

The frequency of inspection and certification to determine the usability of the product shall be as follows:

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS
AS/NZS 1891.4:2009, Section 9**

Activity	Application	Reference
Inspection by operator before and after use	All height safety equipment including harnesses, lanyard assemblies, connectors, fall-arrest devices including common use devices	Clause 9.2
3-monthly inspection by competent person	Type 1, 2, 3, Fall-arrest devices External check only	Clause 9.3.4 (a)
6-monthly inspection by competent person*	Belts, harnesses, lanyard assemblies and associated personal equipment	Clause 9.3.2
12-monthly inspection/service by competent person*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanently installed anchorages • Fall arrest devices (Type 1, 2 & 3) – full service including dismantling where indicated (By manufacturer or approved service agent) • Horizontal lifelines and rails, including integral components and permanently installed mobile attachment devices. 	Clause 9.3.3 Clause 9.3.4 Clause 9.3.5
In accordance with other Standards	Ropes and slings	Clause 9.7
Inspection on entry or re-entry into service	All items of personal and common use equipment	Clause 9.4
Inspection after a fall arrest (and before further use)	All items which have been stressed as a result of a fall	Clause 9.5

AS/NZS 1891.1 defines a competent person as: *A person who has, through a combination of training, education and experience, acquired knowledge and skills enabling that person to correctly perform a specified task.*

Notes:

- Anchorages mounted in masonry shall be proof loaded to ½ its design load every 12 months.
- State legislation may require more frequent inspections.
- For SRL inspection details refer to technical bulletin SRL003AU.

As recommended by Capital Safety, inspection scheduling for other fall protection equipment is given below.

Equipment	Before & After Use	1-Monthly Competent Person	3-Monthly Competent Person	6-Monthly	1 Years	2 Years
Winches – Salalift I and II	YES			YES	Serviced & recertified	
Rescue Positioning Devices (RPD's)	YES			YES	Serviced & recertified	
Rescumatic Controlled Descent Devices	YES			YES	Serviced & recertified	
Lad-Saf Ladder Safety System	YES				Inspected by competent person	
Tripod / Davit Arms / Support Structures	YES			YES	Serviced & recertified	
Load Arrestors – Equipment Only					Inspected by competent person	Serviced & recertified

Removal from Service

AS/NZS 1891.4 states the following regarding removal of equipment from service:

Any piece of equipment including both personal and permanently installed items, which has been used to arrest a fall or which shows any defect during operator or periodic inspection shall be withdrawn from service immediately and a replacement obtained if necessary. A label indicating the condition or defect must be attached to the equipment, and it must be examined by a competent person who will decide whether the equipment is to be destroyed or repaired/recertified if necessary and returned to service. In the latter case, details of any repair shall be documented and a copy given to the operator.

In accordance with AS/NZS 1891.1, personal web products must be marked with a date by which they are to be taken out of service and destroyed (10 years from date of manufacture). This date is located on the product description label.

Maintenance of Inspection Records

An inspection record should be kept for each piece of fall protection equipment. The table below found in AS/NZS 1891.4, Section 9 indicates the maintenance and servicing information that should be recorded and made available to operators and users of the equipment.

Item to be Recorded	Harnesses, Lineworkers body belts and assemblies	Lanyard assemblies and pole straps	Type 1 fall-arrest devices including anchorage line	Type 2 / 3 fall-arrest devices	Mobile attachment devices	Fixed anchorages, horizontal life lines and life rails
Manufacturer's supplier's or installer's name and address	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manufacturer's batch number	Yes	Yes				
Serial or identifying number			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year of manufacture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Details of recommended connection to belts or harnesses		Yes	Yes	Yes		
Type of anchorage line to be used			Yes			
Suitability and limitation on various usages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of purchase	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Date of first put into service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dates and details of inspection and services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes