

**1. Aim of the Tool Box Talk**

To ensure that personnel are competent to carry out checks and inspections on work at height equipment.

**2. Objective**

To provide attendees with relevant information and a methodology for them to be able to undertake a suitable pre-use check and inspection of work at height equipment.

**3. Outcomes**

Personnel will be able to inspect a harness, identify harness defects and where relevant record the inspection.

**4. Intended Audience**

Personnel carrying out the pre-use check and periodic inspection.


**5. Record**

Toolbox talk recorded on training record form, completed copy to be forwarded to the SHEQ department in Birmingham for retention.

**6. Detail**

Requirements				
Type	When	Who	Competency	Record
Pre-use check	Before use	User	Lyndon harness inspection video or TBT093 Safety Harness Inspection	No
Periodic inspection	3 monthly, weekly for some clients	Competent Person	Spanset training course or Cascaded Spanset training course	Yes



- Start by checking the label – check that the date of manufacture and ensure that the maximum lifespan of 10 years (Spanset) has not been exceeded, we replace our harnesses after 36 months.
- The label must be legible, if you cannot read the serial number we need to replace as you cannot be certain the harness you are now inspecting relates to the harness inspection record
- The inspection is visual and tactile – you must use your hands and touch and feel along the webbing/buckles
- You are looking for more than minor wear and tear
- Pick the harness up by rear “D” ring and shake it loose
- On inspecting the harness, you could start at the “D” ring and work your way down, chest connection, leg straps and then back to the “D” ring and check the shoulder straps –but however you choose to inspect a harness you must do it in a logical, methodical fashion so you are confident that when you

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			<b>Toolbox Talk</b>
<b>SAFTEY HARNESS INSPECTION</b>			



have finished you have inspected all the harness

- On the metal components, the “D” ring, “D link’s and steel buckles you are checking for damage – are they bent, worn, rusty or corroded
- Do the buckles easily connect; connect them together and give them a couple of sharp tugs to confirm they stay in place
- Look under and around the “D” ring, “D” links and buckles and look for signs of damage as this is a likely place to find it as the metal rubs against the webbing
- Push the buckles through a little bit so you can see underneath them
- Fit the leg buckles together and pull hard to check they do not come apart.
- On the webbing you are looking for nicks, cuts, frays, abrasion, burns, heat damage and signs of chemical damage
- Look at the webbing – is it discoloured? – a sign of chemical damage or UV damage
- Run your fingers over the surface of the webbing on both sides– how does it feel – smooth or are there hard/stiff bits which could indicate burns or chemical damage
- Turn the webbing over so you can visually check both sides
- Grasp the webbing in both hands and bend it, this makes it easier to see any distortion or damage to the stitching.
- Visually check the edges of the webbing for nicks/cuts and by running your fingers along the edge.
- Visually check the stitching – is it all in place and in a regular pattern, any loose or missing threads
- Check the webbing and stitching particularly closely around any connections where there is a higher level of wear, like the shoulder straps and the adjacent steel buckles and where there is a specific pattern – is the stitching pattern regular or is it pulled/distorted?
- All damage to the webbing, be it cuts/nicks or discolouration weaken the integrity and the strength of the webbing
- Then inspect the lanyard checking the webbing and stitching for damage as you would the harness, check the carabiners are not damaged and distorted and that they work correctly
- The lanyard must not be knotted.
- Remember minor wear, frays and slight damage to the outer fibres is acceptable but you must continue to check to make sure the minor damage does not deteriorate
- If your harness has been subject to a fall it must be immediately withdrawn.
- If you have any doubt as to whether your harness is fit to be used, then take it to your supervisor for him to inspect

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- If your supervisor has any doubt as to the quality and safety of your harness, then it must be taken out of service immediately.
- Any defective work at height PPE must be segregated to prevent its inadvertent use and destroyed to ensure that it cannot be inadvertently used i.e. webbing, rope, wire bonds etc. to be is cut all the way through etc.

**7. Discussion & Closeout**

**8. Document location**

Dropbox (Lyndon)\Lyndon Team Folder\Templates\SHEQ Communication\SHEQ Toolbox Talks

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