
# TOOLBOX TALK

## FALL ARREST HARNESS INSPECTION

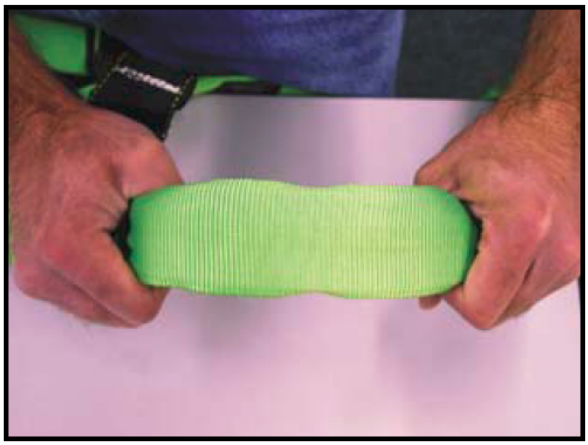
All fall arrest equipment MUST be inspected before each use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If it is damaged, DO NOT USE IT!!! Remove it from service and red tag it so no one else could accidentally use it. Also, be sure to let your supervisor know so that your equipment can be replaced as soon as possible.

The excerpted information below is similar to most manufacturers inspection guidlines and should serve as a awareness training rather than specific guidline for each manufacturers harness inspection. Remember that you are required to follow your specific manufacturers inspection guidelines each time you inspect a harness!

The harnesses that this company purchases are designed for today's rugged work environments. To maintain their service life and high performance, harnesses should be inspected frequently. The harness wearers should inspect the harness thoroughly before each use and note the inspection on the confined space form. An annual inspection by a competent person for wear, damage or corrosion is also a part of this companies safety program.

Perform the following procedures for all harness straps.

① **Webbing Straps**
Grasp the webbing with your hands 6 to 8 inches apart. Bend the webbing in an inverted "U" as shown. The surface tension resulting makes damaged fibers or cuts easier to see. Follow this procedure the entire length of the webbing, inspecting both sides of each strap. Watch for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts, burns, and chemical damage.



② **D-rings**
Check D-rings for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. The D-ring should pivot freely. Also check the attachment point of the D-ring to make sure it is secure.

③ **Buckles**
These should be given special attention. Note any unusual wear, damage, or distortion.

- On tongue buckles, check that the roller and tongue move freely, and that the tongue overlaps the buckle frame.
- Check outer and center bars on friction and mating buckles for distortion.

④ **Stitching**
Check all stitching for ripped or pulled stitches and to make sure the webbing joints are not loose.

## ⑤ Pads / Lanyard D-Rings

Check all pads on harness for damage. Look for any cracks or excessive wear. Your Miller Fall Protection harness includes two pull free lanyard d-rings. These d-rings are used for attaching your single or double leg lanyard when it is not in use. Check for missing lanyard d-ring's on front two-hole pads.

## Types of Webbing Damage

**TYPE OF EXPOSURE**

| TYPE OF WEBBING | HEAT | CHEMICAL | MOLTEN METAL OR FLAME | PAINTS AND SOLVENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nylon & Cordura | In excessive heat, nylon becomes brittle and has a shriveled brownish appearance. Fibers will break when flexed. Should not be used above 200°F | Change in color usually appearing as a brownish smear or smudge. Transverse cracks when webbing is bent over a mandrel. Loss of elasticity in webbing. | Webbing strands fuse together. Hard shiny spots. Hard and brittle feel. | Paint which penetrates and dries restricts movement of fibers. Drying agents and solvents in some paints will appear as chemical damage. |
| Polyester (Dacron) | Same as nylon, except do not use above 180° F. | Same as nylon. | Same as nylon. | Same as nylon. |

(Contact Miller Fall Protection at 800-873-5242 if you have any questions with the above chart)