



Fall Protection

Self Retracting Devices Inspection and Servicing Guidelines

Background

Servicing and inspection of mechanical fall protection devices, such as Self Retracting Devices (SRDs) often referred to as Self Retracting Lifelines (SRLs) or Lanyards are important requirements of any effective fall protection safety program. The frequency of servicing and inspection as well as who should perform these activities are critical items. All fall protection equipment, including SRDs, must be inspected before each use. If inspection reveals a defective condition, the SRDs must be removed from use and repaired/ serviced.

Servicing Frequency

Servicing frequency is dependent on the applicable country or local codes/ regulations that are in affect for that specific region where the SRD is in use. The work environment, the type of work being performed, and the frequency of use are some of the factors that will determine how often the SRD should be serviced. The following frequency information should be viewed as minimum requirements.

United States

There are no mandatory requirements for servicing frequency in OSHA regulations or ANSI standards. The manufacturer's guidelines for servicing must be followed according to ANSI Z359.14-2014. 3M Fall Protection's guidelines indicate that SRDs must be inspected before each use and also have the units inspected by a competent person. The frequency of the competent person inspections is based on the type and conditions of use (see ANSI Z359.14 and manufacturer's instructions regarding details of the competent person inspections). If a unit fails inspection, the SRDs must be withdrawn from use and serviced by an authorized service center or the manufacturer.

Canada

Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard CAN/CSA Z259.2.2-17 requires SRD's to be returned to the manufacturer or manufacturer-approved agent no more than 2 years after the date of manufacture for inspection and maintenance and annually thereafter.

IMPORTANT NOTE

This applies to type 2 SRD's (working length of more than 3.0m) and type 3 SRD's (SRD with retrieval function and working length of more than 3.0m).

Countries with CE Standard Compliance

CE standards state that fall arrest equipment such as SRD's must be periodically examined at least every 12 months by a competent person other than the user.

3M SRD's with Fall Indicator (or External Absorber Pack)

The competent person performing the visual examination must decide:

- If the SRD passes this inspection, then visual inspection allows the device to continue to be used for another period.
- If the SRD doesn't pass this inspection and if the unit can be opened up (repairable), the SRD must be sent to a 3M technician or authorized service center for repair and service. In the case of a non-repairable unit, the SRD must be removed from use.

3M SRD's Without Fall Indicator (or Without External Absorber Pack)

- The competent person must be a 3M technician or authorized service center technician, performing a service and visual examination.
- This service and visual examination allows the device to continue to be used for another period.

Australia / New Zealand

Australian / New Zealand requirements AS/NZS 1891.4. Frequency of service as recommended by the manufacturer must be at least once every 5-years and must be conducted by a height safety equipment inspector, or, in the absence of a manufacturer recommendation, the equipment must be serviced at least once every 12 months.

3M recommends the following:

- Inspection by a height safety operator before and after each use.
- Six (6) month inspection by a height safety equipment inspector.
- Inspection and necessary service required by manufacturer after a fall arrest event.
- Inspection and necessary service required by manufacturer after failing an inspection.
- Inspection and necessary service required by manufacturer after 5 years.

Inspection Requirements and Summary by Standard/Regulation

The information identified in the regulations or standards listed below address inspections as follows:

OSHA 1910.140

- Remove impacted systems and components.
- Inspect systems prior to use.

OSHA 1926.502

- Remove impacted systems and components.
- Inspect systems prior to use.

ANSI Z359.14-2014

- Comply with manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect SRD after subjected to fall arrest. Inspected by user prior to use.
- Competent Person inspection at intervals based on type and conditions of use.

CSA Z259.2.2

- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect before each use.
- Annual inspection by competent person. Inspect SRD after subjected to fall arrest.

CE EN365:2004

- Inspect prior to use. Periodic examinations by a competent person must be done at least every 12 months, in accordance with the Manufacturer's instructions

AS/NZS 1891.4

- Inspection by a height safety operator before and after each use. Six (6) month inspection by a height safety equipment inspector.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Competent Person definition: a person who is capable of identifying hazardous or dangerous conditions in the personal fall arrest system or any component thereof, as well as in their application and use with related equipment. Ref. OSHA 1910.66 App. C.

Height safety equipment inspector definition: A person who is competent in the skills needed to detect faults in height safety equipment and to determine remedial action. AS/NZS1891.4:2009

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