



WAHSA PGN10

Practical Guidance Note 10

GUIDANCE ON INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE - FALL PROTECTION / RESCUE EQUIPMENT

A series of informative notes for all industries involved with work at height or rescue.

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INTRODUCTION

This information sheet gives very brief guidance on points to consider once equipment has been selected and prior to undertaking any specific task.

It is intended for employers, supervisors, and users of all types of Fall Protection, Rescue and Confined Space equipment. It is summary and guidance only. The order of items is not significant.

The information contained in this material has been compiled by the Working at Height Safety Association from information that is already in the public domain. The material is intended to provide guidance but does not interpret and apply the law to particular circumstances and cannot be relied upon as advice.

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01 CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE FOR FALL PROTECTION & RESCUE EQUIPMENT

1. If unsure of the required equipment and the level of competency of the people engaged to undertake the task detailed within a Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS), seek advice from the authorised person within your organisation.
 2. Check with the RAMS that the equipment selected is the correct product to undertake the task prior to purchasing and that all aspects of the task have been considered, such as work restraint, fall arrest, rescue etc.
 3. If you've purchased or hired any Personal Fall Protection / Rescue Equipment, refer to the Instruction for Use provided with the equipment. Ensure that the product marking is fully understood.
 4. If the unit is not brand new, check that the Instructions for Use provided with the equipment are still valid by checking on the manufacturer's website. If the Instructions for Use are missing, contact the manufacturer so that they can provide them.
 5. Be aware that the product might appear the same, but different manufacturers / brands / models might operate in different ways or with different actions.
 6. With some types of Personal Fall Protection equipment, for example Self Retracting Lifelines, the equipment might require periodic service above and beyond general inspection. You need to check that the unit is in date prior to use.
 7. Check the Instructions for Use to ensure that the working environment, conditions and other hazards do not impede the equipment's performance.
 8. It may be useful to check whether the manufacturer has additional instructions / guidance / media on their website to demonstrate the correct way to undertake specific tasks using items of equipment.
 9. Personal Fall Protection Equipment should not be used for lifting unless specifically by the manufacturer. Refer to the manufacturer's Instructions for Use if considering using the equipment for lifting.
 10. Ensure that the operatives have received Basic Work at Height training as well as specific use of equipment training where appropriate.
 11. Prior to use, undertake a pre-use inspection of the equipment or system that has been provided.
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