



WAHSA PGN01

Practical Guidance Note 01 (formerly TGN01) Rev. 2

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION 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 when selecting and using personal fall protection equipment such as anchor devices, harnesses and lanyards.

It is intended for employers, supervisors and users of such equipment, as an indication of the types of issues which should be considered. It is summary guidance only. The order of items is not significant.

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01 WHAT TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

WAHSA strongly recommend that all users of fall protection equipment are trained by a competent organisation. Training should include information on the selection of the correct products for the intended work situation, pre-use checks and rescue for the specific equipment.

02 TEN CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

1. **Suitability** – have you got the right equipment and is it fit for purpose? Is the product suitable for the situation? Has it been Risk Assessed?
2. **Condition** – has the equipment suffered any damage and is it fit for use?
3. **Traceability** – do you know the history of the equipment and has it been cared for properly?
4. **Compatibility** – does it function effectively with other products?
5. **Security** – is the equipment (both the individual item and the system) fastened properly to prevent release?
6. **Anchorage** – are suitable anchors available for the intended method and have you considered their strength and position?
7. **Fit and Adjustment** – does the equipment fit you and is the equipment the correct size and has the correct maximum weight rating?
8. **Age** – has the equipment exceeded its recommended lifespan?
9. **Clearance** – is there a safe working height to allow equipment to deploy properly?
10. **Rescue** – have you got a rescue plan that has been practiced and is appropriate to the situation?

If you are unsure about any of the above points when you come to use the equipment, you must seek clarification from a competent person.