



Fall Protection

Fall/Impact Indicators in Full Body Harnesses

Description

Harnesses involved in falls or exposed to impact forces are required by OSHA, ANSI, CSA and CE regulations to be removed from service. Current product standards, such as ANSI Z359.11, require full body harnesses to have fall impact indicators built into each full body harness. This feature is included to help facilitate product inspection of the harness providing a quick visual aid to the inspector or user.

On 3M™ DBI-SALA® ExoFit™ XP Harnesses, fall impact indicators are incorporated into the dorsal d-ring. When ExoFit XP harnesses are involved in a fall, the fall impact indicator is deployed and the d-ring is retained within the harness webbing. This fall impact indicator helps users and competent persons to visually and quickly determine that the harness has been exposed to a fall or impact forces and should be removed from service.

ExoFit XP harness dorsal d-rings will activate and expose the fall impact indicator when a force of 450-650 lbs has been applied. Impacted dorsal d-rings cannot be re-set or repaired. During repeated activities, such as training exercises where a student is suspended or bouncing while positioning or is jolted during training, 450-650 lbs of force may be exceeded on the dorsal d-rings and could deploy the fall impact indicator. This may occur even though no fall was experienced.

Recommendations

3M recommends that ExoFit XP harnesses should be used for training that does not involve suspension by the dorsal d-ring or rescue. If positioning, suspension or rescue from dorsal d-rings is part of training exercises, then 3M recommends using harnesses such as the ExoFit STRATA™, ExoFit NEX™, ExoFit™ or Delta™ harnesses. These models contain different types of fall impact indicators that are typically not affected by general suspension, positioning or rescue activities.

When a fall impact indicator is deployed during training exercises but no free fall has occurred, 3M allows the harness with deployed fall/impact indicator to be used for further training exercises provided that a competent person has inspected the harness and found it acceptable and in safe working condition (except for the indicted dorsal d-ring).

If an ExoFit XP harness shows impact indication on the dorsal d-ring and has not been involved in a fall, suspension or rescue event where a force of 450 -650 lbs was applied, please contact 3M for further information.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Refer to the 3M *User Instructions* provided with your product for additional information.

3M Personal Safety Division

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