



Subject: **Service life – 3M Fall Protection equipment**

Region:	Europe	Language:	EN	Number:	TB0021	Revision:	D
Total Pages:	2	Page n°:	1	First Issue:	4/3/2009	Rev. Date:	16/12/2020

Introduction

3M Fall Protection equipment requires regular inspection in order to remain in service.

This is governed by the European Standard, **EN365 Personal protective equipment against falls from a height** — *General requirements for instructions for use, maintenance, periodic examination, repair, marking and packaging* (EN 365), which states PPE and other equipment used to control fall related risks must be inspected at least once every twelve months by a competent person.

The competent person may determine that an Authorised Service Centre or Approved Installer is needed to carry out these inspections.

Depending upon the type, environment and frequency of use, inspection may be needed to be carried out more frequently than once per year.

Inspections should always be carried out in line with country or local requirements/regulations/laws.

Products must be inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions included in the user documentation of specific equipment.

Service life

EN 365, states that manufacturers are required to provide information of any known limit to the safe usable life of the product, or any part of the product.

For 3M Fall Protection Products, the following lifespan limitations apply:

Textile products

For 3M Fall Protection equipment manufactured from textiles, the functional life of the product is determined by work conditions and maintenance. As long as the product passes inspection criteria, it may remain in service for up to 10 years from the date of manufacture.

Mechanical products, no textile element

For 3M Fall Protection equipment containing no textile elements, the functional life of the product is determined by work conditions and maintenance. As long as the product passes inspection criteria, it may remain in service.

Mechanical products, containing a non-serviceable textile element

For 3M Fall Protection equipment containing a non-serviceable textile element, the functional life of the product is determined by work conditions and maintenance. As long as the product passes inspection criteria, it may remain in service for up to 10 years from the date of manufacture.

Mechanical products, containing a serviceable textile element

For 3M Fall Protection equipment containing a serviceable textile element, the functional life of the product is determined by work conditions and maintenance.

Serviceable textile element

As long as the textile element passes inspection criteria, it may remain in service for up to 10 years from the date of manufacture. Should it fail inspection or reach 10 years from the date of manufacture it must be replaced.

Mechanical element

As long as the product passes inspection criteria, it may remain in service.

Damages

In the event of damage (e.g. cracks, wear, friction, fibre damage) or contamination, further use is not permitted. The degree of damage or contamination is irrelevant.

A competent person must assess the possible damage and contamination and decides on the further procedure.

A possible repair or cleaning can be arranged by the appropriate competent person.

In the event of a lasting impairment, affected devices must be withdrawn from further use and, if necessary, disposed of properly.

**Fall Protection**

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