Fall Protection Safety Tip: What is Transverse Loading in Fall Protection?

Transverse loading is the loading of connecting hardware like rebar hooks, scaffold hooks, carabiners, etc. at right angles to the intended direction of the load. This is commonly referred to as "side loading." ANSI/ASSP Z359.12-2019 requires all hooks with gate openings larger than one inch (1”) to be tested to and identified as complying with the transverse load requirements and to be permanently marked with “Transverse Strength 3,600 LBS (16kN)”.

The effective date for fall protection manufacturers to comply to the latest version of this standard, Z359.12-2019 was July 06, 2020. This version includes new requirements for transverse body loading testing and corresponding product marking.

In all cases, 3M recommends the use of connecting component hardware that meets the ANSI/ASSP Z359.12 standard. Additionally, for transverse loading applications, 3M recommends the use of connecting component hardware that not only meets the standard, but also has been subjected to additional transverse loading application testing.

All fall protection applications should be reviewed and approved by the employer identified competent person. As a best practice, when using snaphooks and carabiners in fall protection applications, it is recommended to terminate all connecting component hardware in an orientation that permits the snaphook or carabiner to align in its long axis from the eye to the bowl of the component. The application of transverse loading should only be conducted as a last option and, when needed, should use connectors specifically intended for that application.

To learn more about specific 3M components and other recommendations for these situations, please consult this technical bulletin. You may also contact 3M TechAssist Helpline at 1800 024 464 or Customer Services at 1300 363 565 if you require further assistance or have questions or concerns.

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