

TOOLBOX TALK

HARNESS USE AND INSPECTION

Background

Alltask have a robust management system in place and this toolbox talk details some of the procedures for managing work at height equipment.

Alltask only issue a harness to operatives who have been trained to wear one (such as those who have completed a CISRS Part 1 Scaffolding course or above and those who have been given specific Harness Use and Inspection Training.

Scaffold Operatives (who have attended the relevant training) must wear and utilise their harness every day whilst at work to ensure their safety and to protect them from falls from height.

Hazards and Risks

- A cut of as little as 1mm can reduce the strength of the webbing tape on a harness or lanyard by anything between 5 – 45% – HSE statistics;
- Untrained personnel will not have the knowledge of correct use;
- Poorly fitted/ worn harness or a damaged lanyard could result in severe injuries if deployed;
- Unsuitable anchor points will fail to arrest the wearer in the case of a fall;
- Damaged fall arrest equipment failing to deploy in case of a fall (resulting in severe injury or a fatality);
- To ensure that the risk is minimised, Alltask carry out recorded quarterly inspections (every three months), but YOU must also carry out a pre-use inspection every day (before you start work).

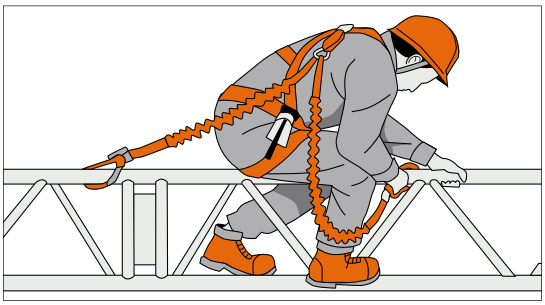


What you should do

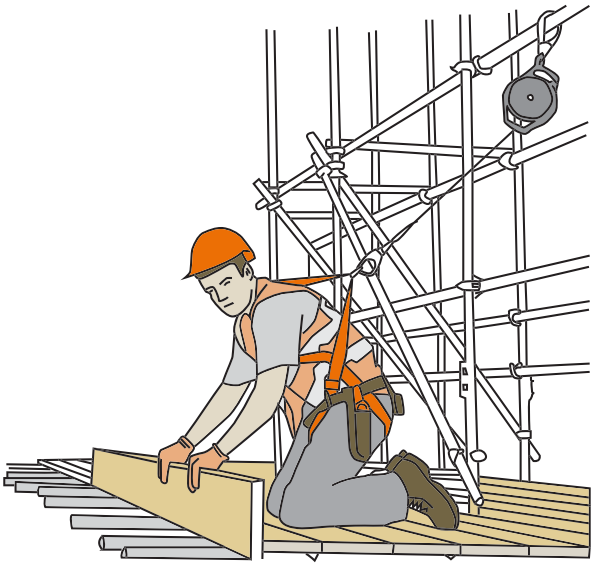
Part 1 Trainees, Scaffolders

If you have not been trained to wear a harness/ lanyard you must NOT wear one;

- If trained (e.g. you have done a CISRS Scaffolding course or attended a harness course etc.), you must wear the harness and lanyard at all times whilst at work (and fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions)
- YOU must thoroughly inspect your harness at the beginning of every shift and look for defects (please see illustration at the end of the toolbox talk)
- YOU must take good care of the harness/ lanyard and not let it get damaged (e.g. by sliding system decks down your chest when chaining, causing damage to the harness); If your harness is damaged, contact your foreman and supervisor immediately who will issue you with a replacement
- You must work to your site-specific Risk Assessment/Method Statement (RAMS), including working in compliance with SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations
- It is an Alltask policy to wear and utilise twin tail lanyards at all time (used specifically when crabbing beams)



Note: this only applies to those who have done the relevant training on their courses (e.g. Scaffolders and Advanced – not to those who have only done harness training. NOTE: A full rescue plan for crabbing beams will be contained within the RAMS).



- The RAMS may require you to wear specialist PPE (such as using inertia reels when erecting hanging scaffolds or protection fans)

Note: this only applies to those who have been trained (e.g. Scaffolders and Advanced), not to those who have only done harness training.

- YOU must ensure you understand how to use that equipment, which includes the hazards and risks involved with its use (e.g. pendulum effect) and any additional inspection requirements
- You must ensure good care of your harness, lanyard etc.
- You must never swap your harness
- At the end of your shift, store the harness safely in your bag or locker
- If your harness shows signs of wear, inform your Contracts Supervisor immediately (who will issue you a replacement and physically destroy your damaged harness and lanyard against further use)
- Do NOT wait until the harness or lanyard are in such a bad condition it is dangerous – this is unacceptable. Instead, check it at the beginning of every shift (and request a replacement as early as possible).

Labourers with no harness

- Labourers and Trainees without a Part 1 qualification must work behind double guardrails and on a fully boarded/decked lift at all times
- Whilst the scaffold is being erected, the lead scaffolder must, make sure that the scaffold is safe for labourers (and for trainees without Part 1) who are carrying material on the scaffold, but no recorded inspection is required for this until the scaffold is completed and then handed over to the client (and all barriers and warning signs are removed)
- If a trainee has not been issued with a harness (or has forgotten to bring it to work) then he is to be considered a labourer (and must only carry material and is not authorised to wear tools or to fix)

Trainees with COTS

- If harness trained, the COTS Trainee (wearing a harness and Restraint lanyard) can assist the CISRS Scaffolder on a fully completed platform, but must be supervised at all times
- If harness trained and wearing a harness, the COTS Trainee can – standing on a fully boarded and double guard railed platform – assist in fixing ledgers, braces and transom's (and the lead scaffolder will ensure that is done properly)

Note: this is done so that the monitored Trainee can get some experience before attending a CISRS Part 1 Course or Apprenticeship.

- If you have a current CISRS Trainee Scaffolders Card and your Contracts Supervisor and Manager have assessed your attitude and aptitude then you may upon this condition be issued a harness and restraint lanyard to wear under the following stringent conditions;
- You are given recorded harness use and inspection training
- You must wear the harness and restraint lanyard at all times whilst at work (in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and your training)
- You ONLY use the harness and restraint lanyard for accessing the Alltask delivery vehicle
- YOU must ensure good care of the harness/ lanyard and not let it get damaged (e.g. by sliding system decks down your chest when chaining, causing damage to the harness)
- YOU are not authorised to do any other harness work – such as crabbing on beams
- When authorised by Alltask you may ONLY carry out the following harness work
- Chaining materials from a fully completed working platform, with the restraint lanyard correctly affixed to the inside ledger
- Installing ledgers and transoms from a fully completed working platform under the direct supervision of a CISRS Scaffolder

What you should do (Pre-use inspections)

- As stated above, YOU must thoroughly inspect your harness and lanyard at the beginning of every shift and look for defects (please see illustration at end of the toolbox talk).
- If your harness is damaged, contact your foreman and supervisor immediately who will issue you with a replacement.
- Do NOT wait until the harness is in such a bad condition it is dangerous – please see photos of defective harness/lanyards on the internet and the photos pasted below.
- Never discard your defective and damaged harness/lanyard (or leave it lying in a lorry) in case someone picks it up and uses it.
- Instead, arrange with your Supervisor to replace your harness/lanyard when you first notice damage (who will destroy the harness and issue you a replacement).
- At the end of your shift, store your harness/ lanyard safely in your bag or locker.



Chest strap damage *- tubes slid down against harness creating severe wear*



Connection between hook and lanyard *- severe damage*



Shoulder strap damaged *- this one can be torn with bare hands*

What you should do (Harness Inspectors)

- Alltask carry out quarterly (every three months) harness inspections of all Work at Height equipment), using the Alltask harness inspection form:
- Alltask Harness Register: Transport Yard for disposal.

ALLTASK

HARNESS AND LANYARD QUARTERLY INSPECTION RECORD

Inspection Period April 2017 - July 2017

OPERATIVE	ISSUED	Inspected By	HARNESS NO	LANYARD NO	LANYARD NO	Result of Inspection	Date of Inspection	Date of Next Inspection
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	351872	350402		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	158360	1306618		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	158358	1502030		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	343936	12666162		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	1602847	12666878		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	334548	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	12589605	13065781		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	12664873	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	327963	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	320571	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	298107	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	291943	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	298110	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17
Alltask spare stock	01/01/2016	A N Other	11393643	N/A		Good Order	01-Apr-17	01-Jul-17

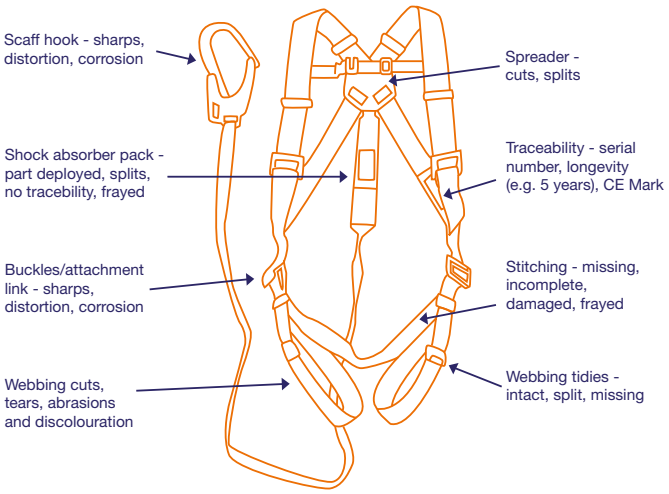
- Contracts Supervisors/Approved Harness Inspectors visit site and inspect harnesses/ lanyards and make a record of the quality of the harness in the inspection records; a harness that has been deemed safe for continual use will have a coloured zip tie attached to the rear D-ring, appropriate colour coding will denote each quarterly inspection period (i.e. RED, YELLOW, BLUE or GREEN).
- Any defective harnesses/lanyards will be cut up immediately and the damaged/defective equipment will be brought back to Alltask

Note: approved harness inspectors must carry cutting equipment with them during their inspections.

- All replacement harness/lanyard numbers will be recorded on the form;
- On completion of the inspection, the Health & Safety Department will scan and save all records to the system.

Points for discussion

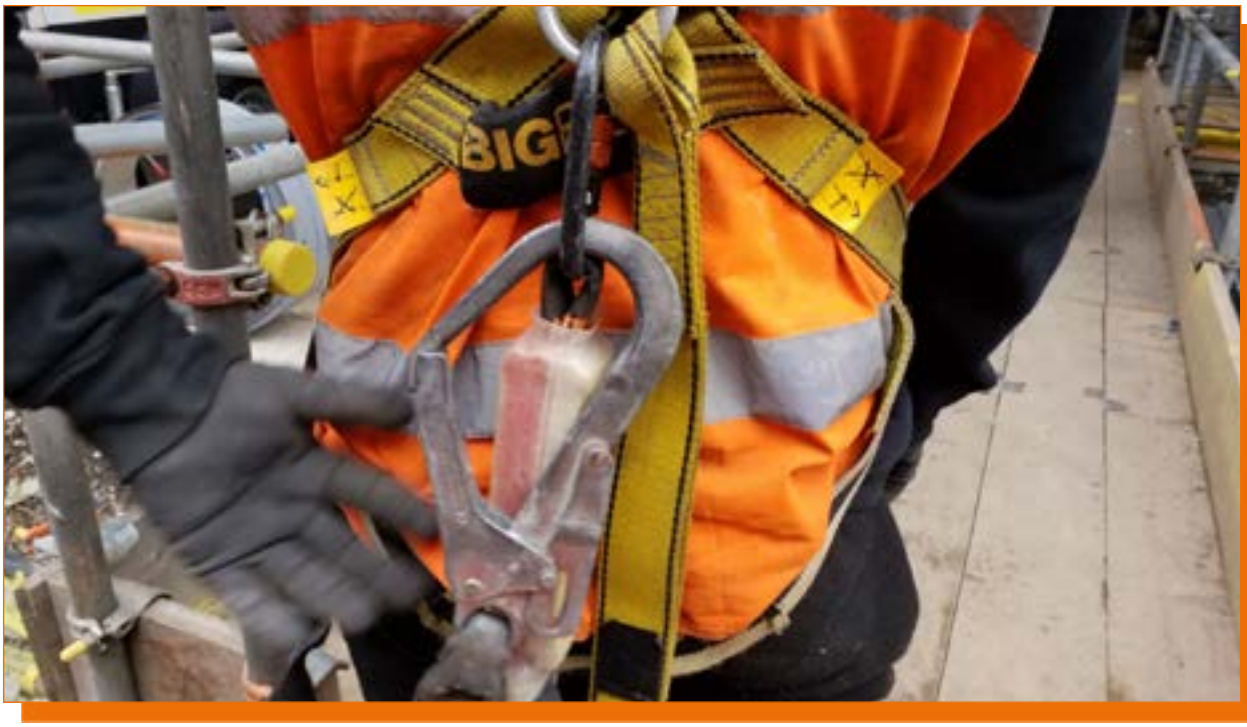
- Check the buckles for deformation, damage such as sharp edges, corrosion, cracks and check the function – does it do what it should?
- Does the hook work properly? If not, it needs replacing;
- Look at the stitching for damage. Any missing, incomplete, damaged or frayed stitching is unacceptable;
- Are the web tidies intact or are they missing? Missing ties can often be replaced;
- Please see illustration of NASC's recommended harness inspection checks.



Use only after receiving training

Further considerations:

- Read manufactures guidance.
- NASC Safety Guidance SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations.
- NASC Safety Guidance SG16 Management of Fall Protection Equipment.



IMPORTANT:
When using only one of the twin tail lanyards that shares a common energy absorber, the scaffolders must NOT wrap spare lanyard around their body or attach it back to the harness or tool belt, as this could reduce the effectiveness of the energy absorber and increase the load transferred into the body. The spare lanyard, when not in use, should either be clipped onto the same anchor point, hang free or be clipped to a purpose designed sacrificial lanyard parking point on the harness.

BRIEFING ATTENDANCE HARNESS USE AND INSPECTION

Given by		*Signature*	
Site Location		*Date*	
Start Time		*Finish Time*	

I HAVE READ OR HAVE BEEN BRIEFED AND UNDERSTAND THE BRIEFING THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME

Name	*Position*	*Date*	*Signature*

Return to Training Dept.
Training Department Action

Recorded ☐ Training Matrix ☐ Documents Filed ☐ Date: .....