



ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

INDUSTRIAL FALL-ARREST SYSTEMS AND DEVICES

AS/NZS 1891.4:2000

Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance.

Regardless of the type of system and equipment selection to which the wearer is connected, if there is a likelihood of a fall greater than 600mm, a fall-arrest harness shall be worn.

Equipment should be tried on by potential users and checked for comfort and freedom of movement when working.

TABLE 4.1 USE OF HARNESSES (INCLUDING BELTS) AND ASSOCIATED DEVICES IN FALL-ARREST SYSTEMS.

The use of the above table will ensure that the correct harness or belt is used for each situation.

E.g. Fall-arrest harnesses, work positioning (sit) harness, confined space fall-arrest harness, ladder belt, restraint belt

5.1 EQUIPMENT DESIGNATION AND SELECTION.

Type 1 device (includes rope and rail grabs) The type 1 device is attached to a fixed vertical or substantially vertical rail or a fixed vertical flexible line and can move up and down the rail or line at a predetermined maximum rate to follow the movement of the user. The user is connected via a short lanyard to the activating lever which locks the device in the event of a fall. A typical use of a type 1 device is

as a ladder fall-arrest system, using a rigid rail or a flexible line attached to the ladder.

Type 2 device (also known as fall-arrester, inertia reel, self retracting lifeline) The type 2 device is generally attached to an anchorage point and pays out line which is attached to the user's fall-arrest harness. The line is controlled by a spring loaded reel which adjusts the line length as the wearer moves up and down in the course of the work. Under fall-arrest conditions the reel locks by means of the inertia-reel or similar mechanical principle.

Type 3 device. The type 3 device is similar to the type 2 device with the addition of a winching mechanism which permits retrieval of wearer who has suffered a fall or is otherwise in distress.

9.1 SUMMARY OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

The following items shall be subjected to inspection by the operator of each item before and after each use to ensure that it is in a serviceable condition.

Personal equipment – harnesses, lanyard assemblies, connectors, fall-arrest devices.

Common use equipment – ropes, slings, fall-arrest devices, mobile attachment devices.

REGULAR SCHEDULED PERIODIC INSPECTION

The inspection and servicing of all items of equipment shall be carried out by a competent person.

- Belts, harnesses, lanyards and associated equipment **6 months**
- Anchorages **12 Months**
- Fall-arrest devices **3 Months**
– Full service **12 Months**

Documentation on the maintenance and servicing history of an item of equipment shall be freely available to operators and users of the equipment.

Webbing products, including belts, harnesses, pole straps and personal shock absorbing lanyards must be destroyed no later than 10 years from date of manufacture on the label. This is irrespective of the fact that the equipment may appear to be in good condition.



TRAINING DATES OHS—CONTACT TANYA AT EEIT PH. 93269377

INITIAL 5 DAY

May 10,11,16,17,18;
August 9,10,15,16,17
November 5,16,21,22,23

1 DAY REFRESHER

June 14,
July 11,
August 8,
September 12,
October 10,
November 14

OHS Reps Meetings 2006 10am—12pm

31st May—ETU Morwell
28th June—Melbourne
26th July—Trades and Labour
Portland
30th August—Melbourne
27th Sept—Trades and Labour
Shepparton
25th October—Melbourne
29th November—ETU Geelong
December tbc—Melbourne

NOTIFICATION OF INCIDENT OR CONCERN

Notifying the Authorities (Worksafe Victoria & Energy Safe Victoria) of fatalities, serious injuries or incidents which expose persons to risk to their health or safety allows identification of the cause of the incident. The information can be used to help prevent similar incidents at that workplace as well as other workplaces.

Notification relates to a serious workplace incident or a incident that exposes or exposed a person to an immediate risk to their health or safety .

The OH&S Act 2004 requires employers and self-employed persons to notify the authorities

immediately they become aware of a notifiable incident at their workplace.

SITE PRESERVATION

An employer or self-employed person who has management control of a workplace where a notifiable incident has occurred must ensure that the incident site is not disturbed until an inspector arrives at the site or such other time as directed by an inspector.

Energy Safe Victoria have requirements prescribed in the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations

and the Network Assets Regulations in relation to notification. In relation to the Installation Regs, notification is required to be by the electrical worker relating to work that they carried out or the operator of a HV installation if it relates to that HV installation.

INCIDENT NOTIFICATION FORMS

Worksafe Victoria

www.workcover.vic.au

Click on forms tab then click on Incident Notification.

Ph - 132 360
Fax – (03) 9641 1091

Email – incidentnotification@workcover.vic.gov.au .

Energy Safe Victoria

www.esv.vic.gov.au

Go to about ESV tab, click on electrical safety then click on electrical incidents, scroll down and click on Electrical Incident Report Form.

Ph – (03) 9203 9700
Fax – (03) 9686 2197

Email – info@esv.vic.gov.au

Electrical Trades Union

www.etu.asn.au

Go to OH&S tab, click on Occupational Health and Safety Issues, scroll down and click on Notification of Concern or Incident Form.

Ph – (03) 8341 5555
Fax – (03) 8341 5566

Email – allan@etu.asn.au

RECENT ELECTRICAL INCIDENTS

Recently there have been two electrical incidents that have come to the attention of the ETU. These incidents need not have occurred. What it does show however is that the need to continue the safety message is just as important as it has always been.

The ETU has always been, and always will be, focused on safety, but we need the members to be ever vigilant and

focused on the task at hand. Safety is not just a state of mind but a fundamental principle upon which we need to work at every day to ensure for the safety of ourselves and others.

The first incident related to a non-electrical worker who was performing maintenance work at a car yard. What is known is that

he suffered a severe electric shock.

It appears that what he was doing was replacing lamps that didn't work. The lamps had been energised to identify the ones that needed replacing. The worker was working from an elevated work platform when it is alleged that he came into contact with the filament from a broken lamp and was either earthed through the light

fitting or through the EWP.

The second incident relates to the death of a man after a grain truck reportedly touched live 22,000 V power lines.

ESV is still investigating the circumstances surrounding the death.

We still have a long way to go, one death is one death too many, work safe, be safe.

OHS TRAINING

AS an elected HSR or Deputy HSR under the OH&S Act 2004 you have the right to request training to enable you to perform your role and to have the necessary training to enable you to perform that role.

You are entitled to an initial OH&S training course of 5 days, and you are also entitled to refresher training at least once a year after completing the initial

course of training.

If you wish to attend OHS rep training, whether it is initial or refresher training, you are required to advise your employer at least 14 days before the course is to start.

Your employer cannot refuse to allow you to attend a course determined by Work Safe.

If the employer refuses to allow the Rep or Deputy Rep to attend the training or if an agreement can't be reached on a particular course, the Rep or Deputy Rep may ask Worksafe to make a determination in relation to the matter.

You should not be disadvantaged in any way, your employer must meet the costs

of the initial and refresher training and pay you the same amount you would get if you were at work, including shift or other allowances. Costs include course fees, travel, accommodation, meals, car parking etc.

The ETU can and does provide such training to OHS Reps. See the front of this newsletter for dates.