

Subject Servicing / Inspection of Self Retracting Lifelines

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Servicing and inspection of mechanical fall protection devices, such as Self Retracting Lifelines (SRL's) are important requirements of any effective safety program. The frequency of servicing and inspection as well as who should perform these activities are critical issues. All fall protection equipment, including SRL's, shall be inspected before each use. If inspection reveals a defective condition, SRL shall be removed from use and repaired/ serviced.

Servicing Frequency

Servicing frequency is dependent on the applicable country or local codes/ regulations that are in affect for that specific region where the SRL is in use. The work environment, the type of work being performed and the frequency of use are some of the factors that will determine how often the SRL should be serviced. The following information should be viewed as minimum requirements.

United States

There are no requirements for servicing frequency in OSHA or ANSI standards. The manufacturer's guidelines for servicing shall be followed according to ANSI Z359.14-2012. Capital Safety Group's guidelines indicate that SRL's shall be inspected before each use, and have end user's perform competent person inspections. The frequency of the competent person inspections is based on the type and conditions of use (see ANSI Z359.14 and manufacturer's instructions regarding details of the competent person inspections). If unit fails inspection, SRL shall be serviced by an authorized service center or the manufacturer.

Canada

Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard CAN/CSA Z259.2.2-98 requires SRL's to be returned to the manufacturer or manufacturer -approved agent no more than 2 years after the date of manufacture for inspection and maintenance and annually thereafter. Note: this applies to type 2 SRL's (working length of more than 3.0m) and type 3 SRL's (SRL with retrieval function and working length of more than 3.0m).

Countries with CE standard compliance

CE standards state that fall arrest equipment such as SRL's shall be periodically examined at least every 12 months by a competent person other than the user.

For Capital Safety SRL's with fall indicator (or external absorber pack)

The competent person performing the visual examination shall decide:

If the SRL passes this inspection successfully, this visual inspection allows the device to continue to be used for another period.

If the SRL doesn't pass this inspection successfully and if the unit can be opened up

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(repairable), the SRL shall be sent to a Capital Safety technician or authorized service center for repair and service. In the case of a non-reparable unit, the SRL shall be removed from use.

For Capital Safety SRL's without fall indicator (or without external absorber pack)

The competent person shall be a Capital Safety technician or authorized service center technician, performing a service and visual examination.

This service and visual examination allows the device to continue to be used for another period.

Australia / New Zealand

Australian / New Zealand requirements AS/NZS1891.4- Frequency of service by a height safety equipment inspector as recommended by the manufacturer to a maximum of 5-yearly, every 12 months service in the absence of such recommendation. Capital Safety requires a maximum of 2 years service interval by an accredited service agent for sealed type 2 and type 3 fall arrest devices in normal use and a 1 year service interval for non-sealed type 2 and type 3 devices in normal use. This service interval should be reduced where the products are used in harsh environmental conditions to a maximum of 1 year for all devices or following a risk assessment.

Inspection Requirements

The information found in the regulations covers inspections as follows:

OSHA 1910.66	Remove impacted systems and components. Inspect systems prior to use.
OSHA 1926.502	Remove impacted systems and components. Inspect systems prior to use.
ANSI Z359.14-2012	Comply with manufacturer's instructions. Inspect SRL after subjected to fall arrest Inspected by user prior to use. Competent Person inspection at intervals based on type and conditions of use.
CSA Z259.2.2	Follow manufacturer's instructions: Inspect before each use Annual inspection by competent person Inspect SRL after subjected to fall arrest
CE EN365:2004	Inspect prior to use. Periodic examinations by a competent person shall be done at least every 12 months, in accordance with the Manufacturer's instructions.
AS/NZS1891.4	Inspect every 6 months by a height safety equipment inspector

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(external check only), with a manufacturer (or accredited agent) service every 2 years for sealed type 2 and type 3 devices, or annually for non-sealed type 2 and type 3 devices in normal use (or more frequently if equipment is used in harsh conditions).

Note:

Competent Person definition: a person who is capable of identifying hazardous or dangerous conditions in the personal fall arrest system or any component thereof, as well as in their application and use with related equipment. Ref. OSHA 1910.66 App. C.

Height safety equipment inspector definition: A person who is competent in the skills needed to detect faults in height safety equipment and to determine remedial action. AS/NZS1891.4:2009

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