

INSPECTION:

Check your **Chokestrap** for any damage or malfunction **prior to each and every use**. If there is any doubt about the safe condition of the chokestrap, it should be immediately withdrawn from use and inspected by a competent person or returned to the supplier/manufacturer.

This Inspection and Service Life guide contains a section for recording Detailed Inspections. On the back of this page is a space for the user to record the product name, serial number and date of manufacture.

Detailed Recorded Inspection should only be carried out by a competent person, appointed by the employer. *(A competent person must be trained and certified by the manufacturer)* Additional, recorded interim inspections may be required where risk from transient arduous working conditions exist. This should be identified through a risk assessment. These recorded inspections must be carried out at least every 6 months as a requirement of the United Kingdom Technical Specification; in the UK the HSE would like all fall prevention PPE to have a Detailed Recorded Inspection every 6 months.

SERVICE LIFE:

The **Chokestrap** has a maximum working life of 5 years from date of first use, provided it is correctly stored, maintained and subject to on-going thorough examination and inspection. However, if the chokestrap fails any inspection it **MUST** be destroyed. If a fall occurs using a chokestrap it must be removed from service. See the Statement of Obsolescence within this guide. The device can have 3 years on the shelf prior to the 5 years in use. The warranty of the chokestrap is for 12 months normal use and fair wear and tear.

STATEMENT OF OBSOLESCENCE:

Due to the ingress of dirt and grit, chemical contamination, edge and surface damage, ultraviolet light degradation, and wear and tear, Fall Protection Equipment manufactured from synthetic fibres (webbing and/or rope) is subject to a manufacturer's statement of obsolescence, which is a requirement of BS EN 365:2004 a European Product Standard.

Any item of Fall Protection Equipment supplied by Safety Technology Ltd with synthetic fibre components (webbing and/or rope) is subject to a maximum working life of 5 years from the recorded date of first use, provided that the item has been correctly stored, maintained and subjected to regular inspections by a trained and competent person. However, if the item fails any inspection it **MUST** be destroyed. If a fall occurs using a chokestrap it must be removed from service.

A new item of Fall Protection Equipment supplied by Safety Technology Ltd may be stored for a maximum of 3 years and will still give the potential 5 year working life – provided it remains in the original manufacturer's packaging. Once the product is taken from this original packaging for the first time, this date becomes the "date of first use", which should be recorded on the Inspection Record and the 5 year working life begins.

Reference should also be made to the British Standard BS 8473:2005 – "The code of practice selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace" – clause 13.2 Lifespan, which states:

"Some equipment is given a life span or obsolescence date by the manufacturer. Equipment that has reached such a limit, which has not already been rejected for other reasons, should be withdrawn from service and not used again, unless or until confirmed by a competent person, in writing, that it is acceptable to do so."

It should be noted that inspections carried out by a trained and competent person are only visual and tactile observations of the condition of the product; they are not testing the residual strength of the equipment. All synthetic fibres deteriorate slowly with age regardless of use and as a result, Safety Technology Limited strongly advises all users of Fall Protection Equipment to follow the manufacturer's statement of obsolescence.

For further advice on this statement, as well as training in the use and inspection of Fall Protection Equipment please contact Safety Technology Limited.

