

**Designers, Manufacturers and Suppliers of  
Quality Height Safety & Rescue Equipment, Training & Consultancy**

# **Users Manual**

**English Version**

**P&P Rope-Rat**

**Work Positioning System**

**To**

**EN358:2018**

Thank you for purchasing this **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System**. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the correct use and operation. It is imperative that this **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** is only used for its intended purpose and that it is subject to a periodic recorded detailed inspection by a competent person.

To avoid personal injury, prior to using this **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** or training others to use it, **CAREFULLY READ** and understand these instructions. If there is anything you do not understand **DO NOT** use the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System**, contact the supplier or **P&P** for further details.

Certain information in this manual is governed by law and is subject to change without prior notice. Great care has been taken to ensure that the information is correct at the time of publication. However, it is the user's sole responsibility to ensure that they fully comply with all legal requirements. **P&P** will not accept liability for any inaccuracy or incorrectly stated legal requirements.

**P&P** operate a policy of continual improvement and reserve the right to change specifications without notice. The Manufacturer and / or their recognised agents, directors, employees or insurers will not be held liable for consequential or other damages, losses or expenses in the connection with or by reason of or the inability to use the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** for any other purpose.

Note; training should only be delivered by a suitably qualified and competent person, i.e. a **P&P** products trainer.

## Description

The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** comprises of a Rope-Rat rope adjuster used on a 11mm diameter Kernmantle rope with connectors and sewn end to prevent the adjuster becoming detached from the rope end. The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** is fitted with a 1m long 'Chunkie' energy absorbing lanyard to enable a cushioned arrest in the event of a fall.

The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** has been tested and approved to BS EN 358: 2018 'Personal protective equipment for work positioning and prevention of falls from a height - Belts and lanyards for work positioning or restraint'.

The attached 'Chunkie' energy absorbing lanyard has been tested to BSEN 355:2002 and is to protect against possible misuse. The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** should not be used for fall arrest applications, whereby slack and potential free fall is introduced into the lanyard.

## Function

The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** is used in conjunction with a full body harness to EN361 to provide a positioning or restraint system.

**P&P** recommend that users are trained in the proper use and practical/physical limitations of this system. Equipment specifiers / users must ensure this device is used with compatible ropes and connectors. Failure to ensure compatibility may result in an unsafe condition or even connector/link failure.

### Warning

All work at height including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a control measure is subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

## Usage

Prior to use a full inspection of every part of the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** must be carried out by the user as detailed in this **P&P** manual. This **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** is for personal use only.

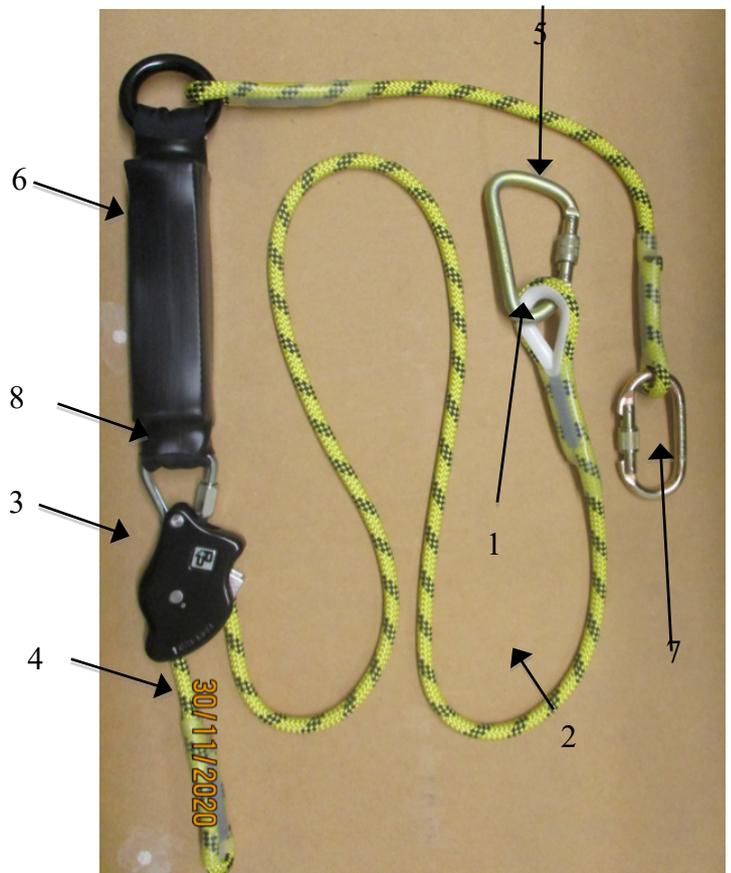
Only use EN362 connectors (hooks, karabiners etc.) approved and recommended by **P&P**.

Check the 'Record of Detailed Inspections' for this system to ensure that regular inspections have been correctly recorded. It is strongly recommended that the user is given adequate practical training prior to using this system.

**DO NOT** use the system until you have read and fully understood these instructions.

**IF IN DOUBT, CHECK BACK WITH THE SUPPLIER OR P&P.**

Diagram 1



1. Rope sewn eye at anchorage end of rope with thimble.

2. 11mm diameter, Kernmantle rope.

3. Rope-Rat rope adjuster.
4. Rope sewn end to prevent Rope-Rat becoming detached from rope end.
5. Screw gate karabiner.
6. 'Chunkie' 1m kernmantle rope energy absorbing lanyard..
7. Screw gate karabiner.
8. Maillon Rapide (Tri-Link) connector.

Using the screw gate karabiner **item 5** in **Diagram 1** attach to a suitable EN795 anchorage point. This may also be a structural strong point with a minimum peak force capability of 12kN. If in doubt a suitable assessment or test must be undertaken to ensure the integrity of any anchor point used.

The 'Chunkie' 1m kernmantle rope energy absorbing lanyard (**item 6**) must always be used and is connected between the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** device and the appropriate attachment 'D' ring of a full body harness to EN361. The user may choose to have the Maillon Rapide (Tri-Link) connector (**item 8**) attached to the user's harness 'D' ring or to the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** device. It does not matter which way round the lanyard is connected as long as it is always used and the screw gates are fully tightened.

Before use, check the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** device properly grips the rope when pulled along the rope away from the spliced eye anchorage. (**item 1**)

The system may now be used to work position the user or to prevent the user reaching a position where a fall is possible.

To shorten or lengthen the system rope, slightly relax your body tension on the rope, squeeze the Rope-Rat, (**item 3**) to release it's grip and move the rope forward or back through the **Rope-Rat** rope adjuster to establish a new work position.

#### Do Not

- Do not use this system until you have read and fully understood these instructions.
- Do not anchor to a structure that itself can fall i.e. loose or unsecure structure.
- Do not loop the rope or lanyard over a structure with sharp edges. Ensure edge radius is greater than 5mm.
- Do not allow the kernmantle rope to become slack – adjust the **Rope-Rat** rope adjuster to immediately take up any rope.

#### Do

- Do inspect the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** each and every time before using.
- Do check the **Rope-Rat** rope adjuster for correct operation – before using.
- Do check all connectors are correctly attached and their respective gates properly closed.
- Do check the Maillon Rapide (Tri-Link connector) is tight with no thread showing.
- Do adjust the length of the system to ensure it prevents you reaching a position ***in any direction*** where a severe fall is possible.
- Do check the rope is always kept taut and never allowed to become slack.

This system is fitted with a 1m energy absorbing lanyard to protect against misuse – the user must never permit the rope to become slack or a situation where a potential free fall is possible.

It is strongly recommended that users are trained in its proper use and practical/physical limitations.

## Modifications and Repairs

No repairs, modifications or alterations are to be carried out on this **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System**.

## Marking of PPE

Textile products including webbing and rope **must not** be marked using ink or paint. Marker pens and paint will contaminate textile fibres leading to potential damage from material stiffening or even chemical attack.

Plastic or Metal casings of components **must not** be marked by stamping, etching or engraving. These processes may weaken the material or damage protective coatings.

**P&P** advise that if additional identification is required a tagging system (label or electronic) should be used that does not interfere in any way with the operation of equipment or devices. Contact **P&P** or your supplier for advice on additional labelling.

## Rescue Plan

### Rescue Plan

As part of your risk assessment you **MUST** have in place a rescue plan to deal with any emergency, which may occur during use. Access to the user, directly or indirectly and their safe retrieval is of paramount importance, including preparations for dealing with potential Post Fall Suspension Syncope

## Inspection

This manual contains a Declaration of Conformity on the back page, before the issue or first use of the system the product details should be recorded on a 'Record of Detailed Inspections'. The product name, unique serial number and date of manufacture will be found on the product labels shrunk onto the lanyard and 11mm Kernmantle rope. Always make sure the product labels are present showing both the serial number and date of manufacture. If the serial number/description is not legible on the Product Label(s) or do not match the User Manual – **DO NOT** Use the System!

This System along with all your other Fall Protection PPE must be subjected to a pre-use check, each time, before use. Failure to inspect the System correctly could cost you your life. You should be trained to carry out a pre-use check. Detailed recorded inspections at a frequency of 6 months should only be carried out by a trained competent person, appointed by the employer. Additional recorded interim inspections may be required where risks from transient arduous working environments exist. This should be identified through Risk Assessment.

The pre-use check must include (but is not limited to)

- Check all rope for signs of cuts, abrasions, fraying, tears, burns, mould, discolouration or chemical attack.
- Adjusters and connectors must be free from rust, excessive wear, distortion or cracks.

- Check all devices for correct operation ensuring there is no tendency for them to stick or jam.
- Check connector gates operate and lock correctly.
- Check the 'Chunkie' energy absorbing lanyard for signs of deployment. If tear webbing is visible at either end of the shrink sleeve the lanyard must be withdrawn from use and inspected by a competent person.

If during the pre-use check the system is found to be or believed to be faulty DO NOT use it. Remove from site to ensure it cannot be used by anyone else.

**WARNING:**

All rope adjusters can damage the rope if a fall has taken place. Not only check the **Rope-Rat** adjuster but also the rope. If a fall is suspected then the system should be withdrawn from Service.

## Cleaning, Maintenance and Storage

Keep the product clean and dry. Remove excess moisture with a clean cloth then allow drying naturally in a warm room away from direct heat.

You may clean this system using water. First rinse in clean cold water – if still soiled; wash in clean warm water using detergent if necessary. Thoroughly rinse in clean cold water and dry as described above.

### Chemical Attack

Avoid contact with any chemical, which might affect the performance of this product, e.g these include all acids and strong caustic substances (vehicle battery acid, bleach etc)

If subject to chemical attack, you must remove it from service and check with the supplier or **P&P** for advice on the possible consequence of chemical degradation.

### Storage

After any necessary cleaning, dry completely then store in a cool dry place, which will protect it from extreme humidity and direct heat.

### Transportation

Care should be taken to protect the system against risks such as those detailed under Service Life. A simple effective way is to transport the system in a suitable bag or container which prevents abrasion.

## Service Life

The **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** has a maximum working life of 10 years from date of first use, provided it is correctly stored and maintained. However, if the system fails any inspection it **MUST** be destroyed. See the Statement of Obsolescence within this manual.

## About This Manual

This User Manual is for English speaking countries only. If you require this manual in a different language, please Contact **P&P**. When this item is sold on, this manual must accompany it and be supplied in the language of the destination country.

## Product Details

The Product Code, Serial number and Date of Manufacture of the **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** should be entered

on your 'Record of Detailed Inspections' for future reference and inspection purposes.

**Warning**

This **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System** must be used by persons who are medically fit to do so. If you have any medical condition, are recovering from any medical condition or suffer from any physical or mental disability you must seek professional medical advice before using this **P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System**.

## 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 manufactured by **P&P** with synthetic fibre components (webbing and/or rope) is subject to maximum life span of 10 years from date of manufacture, provided that the item has been correctly stored, maintained and subjected to regular recorded inspections by a trained and competent person. However, if the item fails any inspection, it **MUST** immediately be withdrawn from service and destroyed.

An item of Fall Protection Equipment incorporating synthetic fibre components (webbing and/or rope), manufactured by **P&P** from January 2015, which has been subject to a lifetime recorded inspection plan, may give a maximum life span of 10 years. The lifetime recorded inspection plan must be continuous from date of first use and be undertaken by a competent person appointed by the employer. Competent persons must be trained in the use and inspection of the equipment. The lifetime inspection plan must include as a minimum requirement, a pre use check and 6 monthly recorded inspections. The frequency of inspections should be determined by risk assessment, use and environmental conditions.

Reference should also be made to the British Standard BS 8437:2005 – '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, **P&P** 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 **P&P Safety Ltd**.

The Notified body conducting the EU Type Examination for this product is:

SATRA Technology Europe Ltd, Braceton Business Park,  
Clonee, Co. Meath D15 YN2P, Ireland

EU Notified Body No 2777

This PPE is subject to the conformity assessment procedure of conformity to type based on quality assurance of the production process (Module D) PPE Regulations (EU) 2016/425 under the surveillance of the notified body:

BSI Group The Netherlands B.V.,  
John M. Keynesplein 9,  
1066 EP Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

EU Notified Body No 2797

The Approved body conducting the UKCA Type Examination for this product is:

SATRA Technology Centre Ltd, Wyndham Way,  
Telford Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire,  
NN16 8SD, United Kingdom

UKCA Approved Body No AB0321

This PPE is subject to the conformity assessment procedure of conformity to type based on quality assurance of the production process (Module D) PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 (as brought in UK Law and amended) under the surveillance of the Approved body:

BSI Assurance UK Limited.,  
389 Chiswick High Rd.,  
London, W4 4AL,  
United Kingdom

UKCA Approved Body No AB0086

The EU and UKCA Declarations of Conformity for **P&P Safety Ltd**  
products can be found and downloaded from our web site:  
<https://www.ppsafety.co.uk>

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**P&P Rope-Rat Work Positioning System V3 0525**

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