

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 070 – SAFETY HARNESES

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for inspection, fitting, care and use of safety harnesses at Illusions Australia.

This procedure addresses the harness itself; selection of a complete fall-arrest/restraint system, anchors and rescue arrangements must also comply with the relevant Working at Heights/Fall Arrest controls.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only trained, competent and authorised workers may use fall-protection harnesses.

Users must understand inspection criteria, correct fitting, connection points, compatibility and equipment limitations.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Full-body harness appropriate to the system.
- Compatible connecting equipment as specified by the system.
- Helmet with secure retention where required.
- Safety footwear.
- Other task-specific PPE.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Harness identification/labels are legible.
- Webbing has no cuts, burns, chemical damage, excessive wear or contamination.
- Stitching is intact.
- Buckles, D-rings and adjusters are undamaged and operate correctly.
- Inspection status is current under workplace arrangements.
- Harness is compatible with the intended system.
- No history of fall loading or uncertain damage exists.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Inspect the harness before each use.
2. Hold/orient harness correctly and untwist webbing.
3. Put on and adjust shoulder, leg and chest straps as designed.
4. Ensure straps are snug without restricting circulation/movement.
5. Check buckle engagement and tail retention.
6. Connect only via the designated attachment point for the intended system.
7. Have fit/connection checked where required before exposure to a fall hazard.

8. Protect webbing from sharp edges, heat, chemicals and paint.

9. After use, inspect and store clean, dry and protected.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Use a damaged or uninspected harness.
- Tie knots in webbing.
- Modify, write on, paint or drill harness components.
- Connect to non-designated attachment points.
- Use a harness after a fall unless formally removed and assessed in accordance with requirements.
- Store harnesses wet, contaminated or exposed to damaging sunlight/chemicals.

7. FITTING AND SUSPENSION

Incorrectly fitted harnesses can worsen injury during fall arrest and suspension.

- Adjust all straps correctly.
- Keep loose strap ends controlled.
- Ensure rescue planning addresses suspension after a fall.

8. INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE

Damage may not always be obvious after impact, chemical exposure or heat.

- Quarantine suspect equipment.
- Maintain periodic inspection records where required.
- Follow manufacturer retirement criteria.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Immediately remove from service any harness that has arrested a fall, is damaged, contaminated, missing labels or has uncertain history.

Tag/quarantine for competent assessment or disposal.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Inspect after use.
- Clean only by approved methods.
- Dry naturally away from direct heat.
- Store hanging or loosely packed in a clean dry location.
- Record/report defects.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.

5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Inspection status is uncertain.
- Damage or contamination is found.
- Correct system/connection point is unavailable.
- Rescue arrangements are absent for fall-arrest use.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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