



Safety Bulletin - October 2018

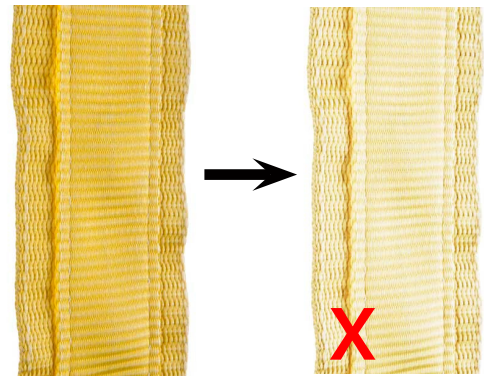
Discolouration of Webbing

Given that a large proportion of work at height equipment consist of, or contains webbing, it is of the utmost importance to ensure that the webbing is in a good condition before starting with a task. An inspection criterion that is often overlooked is that of discolouration.

Discolouration is mainly caused by two factors:

1. Ultraviolet Damage:

Ultraviolet damage is most commonly caused by prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. This weakens the fibres of the webbing which could lead to webbing failure if subjected to a shockload. UV exposure is unavoidable to a certain extent but it can be managed. Ensure that webbing is never stored in direct sunlight or underneath neon lights.



No UV exposure

UV exposure

2. Chemical Damage:

Due to the nature of work at height, it is very frequently the case that technicians use chemicals such as paint, grease, waterproofing etc. Should webbing come into contact with any chemicals, it should be withdrawn from service until a detailed inspection can be conducted to determine the severity of the damage. Chemical contaminants can prevent the fibres from be able to stretch which can lead to a failure when subjected to a shockload. A secondary effect is that the chemical contaminants cover the webbing so that a detailed inspection cannot be conducted thoroughly. If this is the case, the equipment must be withdrawn from service and replaced.



Should equipment need to be marked, ensure it is not marked on any load-bearing parts of the equipment if the ink is not suitable to be used on work at height equipment.

All Gravity Gear equipment has space allocated for the safe marking of equipment.

