

DIFFERENT INSPECTION CRITERIA FOR LIFTING TACKLE VS. PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

In the Work at Height Industry there is a need to better understand the difference between Personal Fall Protection Equipment and Lifting Tackle, especially when it comes to inspecting. Although there are similarities, the focus is the differences regarding the criteria, standards, and processes of inspections.

Firstly, let's understand the difference between Personal Fall Protection Equipment and Lifting Tackle, by looking at both categories' definitions:

Figure 1



Figure 2



"Personal Fall Protection Equipment" (Figure 1) means an assembly of components for protection against falls from a height, including a body holding device and an attachment system, which can be connected to a reliable anchorage point.

"Lifting Tackle" (Figure 2) means chain slings, wire rope slings, woven webbing slings, master links, hooks, shackles and swivels, eye bolts, lifting or spreader beams, tongs, ladles, coil lifters, plate lifting clamps and drum-lifting clamps used to attach a load to a lifting machine.

Herewith a brief summary explaining the inspection criteria for both Personal Fall Protection Equipment and Lifting Tackle:

PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT	LIFTING TACKLE
INSPECTIONS	
WHEN:	
<p>ISO 22846-2 on Rope Access gives the following good practice guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed (formal) inspection is required every 6 months and records should be kept for at least the life of the item of equipment (typically 5 to 10 years). Further interim inspections should be carried out where events liable to jeopardize safety have occurred at intervals determined by the risk assessment. Pe-use inspection involves a visual and tactile inspection by the user, before first use each day, with monitoring during use in accordance with the OEM's** instructions. 	<p>Per each country's legislation and good industry practice, the following are advised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A thorough examination every 6 months is required and records should be kept for a minimum of 5 years. <i>("Thorough examination" means examination or inspection to determine whether the equipment is safe to use).</i> Further interim inspections should be carried out where events liable to jeopardize safety have occurred at intervals determined by the risk assessment. Pre-use inspection by the user should be done in accordance with the OEM's** instructions before work commences.
WHO:	
A competent person, typically a person with Climbing Equipment Inspector training.	A competent person, who has received training in lifting tackle inspections.



PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT	LIFTING TACKLE
INSPECTIONS	
HOW:	
A visual and tactile inspection, but load testing is not required. <i>(See details below on lifting machine performance test)</i>	A visual and tactile inspection only. <i>(See details below on lifting machine performance test)</i>
Equipment subjected to an extreme load, or a fall should be immediately withdrawn from use and be subjected to a formal interim inspection before re-entry into service or before it being discarded.	
CERTIFICATION: (Standard reference to be recorded on inspection documents)	
A Certificate of Conformity is documentation provided by a supplier at the time of purchase, stating the performance specifications of the equipment or indicating conformity to known standards or compliance with relevant legislation.	
WHAT:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Certificate of Conformance (from the manufacturer) to indicate conformance to the respective EN standard. b. The product must reflect a unique ID/serial number and name of OEM** for traceability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Certificate of Conformance (from the manufacturer) to indicate conformance to the respective EN/technical standard. b. The product must reflect a unique serial number and name of OEM** for traceability.
DETAILS ON LOAD/PERFORMANCE TESTING (Lifting Machinery only)	
<p>"Lifting Machine" means a power-driven machine that is designed and constructed for the purpose of raising or lowering a load or moving it in suspension, but it does not include an elevator, escalator, or hand-powered lifting devices.</p> <p>The user must ensure every lifting machine is subjected to a thorough examination and a lifting machine performance test (also known as load test), by a Lifting Machinery Inspector (LMI), as prescribed by the standard to which the lifting machine was manufactured before the machine is put into use. The same will apply every time the machine is dismantled and re-erected, and thereafter at intervals not exceeding 12 months.</p>	

** OEM – Original Equipment Manufacturer

