

Factors Affecting the Service Life of Personal Fall Protection Equipment

Many factors contribute to the lifespan of an item of Personal Fall Protection Equipment. Equipment can be rendered unsafe or unusable through factor such as improper storage, hazardous exposure, standard wear over time, and misuse. Many additional variables can contribute to the lifespan of a product.

Fall protection standards change on a regular basis, and your equipment may be rendered obsolete through your company's adherence to current standards. In addition, not every manufacturer produces equipment that complies with current standards. Products should be examined closely for adherence to both published standards and company policy before purchase.

ANSI standards provide the following guidelines regarding the service life of Personal Fall Protection :

ANSI A10.32-2004 States :

1.4.4 : The service life of fall protection equipment manufactured of synthetic fiber shall be 5 years unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.

E1.4.4 : There is no guarantee that 5 years is the actual service life as it is dependent on diverse factors which must be accounted for.

Additional references to Inspection, Maintenance, and Storage criteria can be found in Sections 6.1 and 6.1.2 of the revised ANSI Standard Z359.1-2007.

Our Position

Reliance products should be inspected thoroughly before use in accordance with the Inspection procedures outlined in the Instructions for Use which accompany each product. Products are also subject to regular, thorough inspections by a certified Competent Person. If the product fails to pass this inspection, it should be removed from service.

