



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

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## 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 However, if the item fails any inspection, it **MUST** immediately be withdrawn from service and destroyed.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 Equipment that has reached such a limit, which has not already been rejected for other reasons, should be withdrawn from service and not used again, unless or until confirmed by a competent person, in writing, that it is acceptable to do so.'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**.



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