

## Provision of PPE for Lifeline Installations – Responsibilities of the Lifeline Designer

When designing a lifeline, it is imperative that the designer undertakes the correct risk assessment of the working area and access routes in order to position the lifeline correctly, should passive safety not be an option.

A key component of this lifeline positioning criteria is the decision on the PPE to be used.

We will discuss the detail regarding Fall Restraint and Fall Arrest in a later issue but suffice it to say that without the decision on the PPE to be used then the position of the lifeline is not properly considered.

Add to this that the user of the system may not be adequately protected should the PPE used be different to that considered in the design and we have an opening for an accident that should be avoided.

For example, if a lifeline is positioned as a restraint system using a 1.5m lanyard, and the user is provided with a 2m lanyard then instantly the system becomes a Fall Arrest system.

This then means that the user is instantly at high risk, and is required to have a rescue plan provided, including a rescue kit and training.

This could also be a much worse situation if the 2m lanyard is in fact a restraint lanyard. Again, we will discuss this in more detail in a later issue.

In addition to this there is a new standard on the horizon, an update to BS 7883:2005. In this draft standard there is more specific emphasis placed onto the system designer for the provision of the correct system placement, and also on the specification of the PPE to be used.

*pr BS 7883:2019 Section 5.1 General Requirements*

*The system designer should select the appropriate anchor system and personal fall protection equipment in respect to type and application to minimise the fall risk while maintaining the appropriate level of safety, without increasing complexity.*

Correct PPE is vital for the correct performance of any anchorage, but the variance in lanyard length and the different attachment devices for each type of lifeline are by far the most important to consider when placement of an anchor is critical to the user's safety.

So, the responsibility on the lifeline designer is such that the work area need to be assessed, and then the correct combination of PPE, lifeline travelling device and lifeline position needs to be provided. Without it there is no guarantee that a safe system of work has been provided, and the user may not be protected in a way in which they assume themselves to be.

Need advice? Call Bettersafe International on (UK) +44 (0) 1260 217 437 (Europe) + 31 (0) 183 820 280

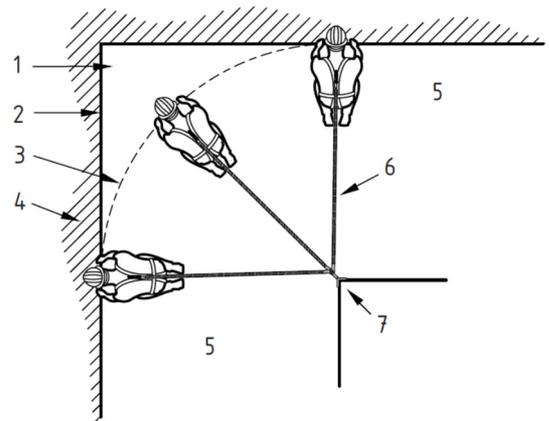


Figure 1 Correct use of a lanyard and anchor to provide restraint. Source BS8437:2005

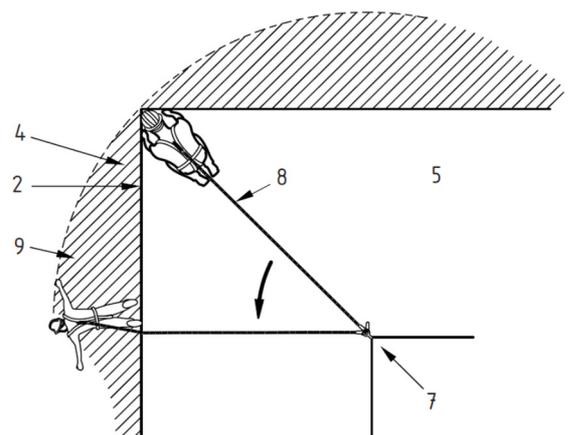


Figure 2 Changing lanyard length takes the user into an instant fall risk. Source BS8437:2005