

# Technical Bulletin

## **Re: Fall Protection Anchors, EN795 & CE Approval**

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An effective personal fall protection system requires three essential elements

1. Full body harness,
2. A Connection device (product or assembly e.g. lanyard)
3. Anchorage.

To protect the user against such risks a series of European Normative Standards (EN's) were developed, and continuously reviewed amongst experts representing member states and implemented under the The Directive on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (89/686/EEC). The latter effectively serves to provide a list of minimum performance standards and enable universal minimum conformity through use of a visible CE mark.

However, by definition the PPE Directive related to 'Personal' Protective Equipment i.e. products that are 'worn or held' and so never directly could be applied to permanently fixed anchorages, effectively preventing the application of a CE mark.

Recognising that this situation left decision makers in a difficult position, some member states adopted a 'presumption of conformity' which enabled CE marking (subject to notified body validation) of anchorages tested in accordance with EN795 1997 Class A1, A2, C and D standards. Thus, many permanently fixed anchorages, including horizontal lifelines (Class C) have been subjected to a validation process, and EC Type Test to EN795 and are CE marked accordingly.

In 2010 a court ruling effectively withdrew the right for this presumption of conformity which, when coupled with the release of EN795:2012 caused a lot of confusion.

The 2012 EN795 standard is now limited in scope to single users and to devices that can be removed from the structure. Importantly, for multiple users on a single anchorage system a separate Technical Specification document (CEN/ TS 16415: 2012) is required to be tested against in addition to the EN795 standard test requirements.

The 2012 standard also contains significant technical enhancements including:

- The need to design and test for fall arrest even if the product is offered for fall restraining purposes;
- Enhanced dynamic and static testing;
- Guidance on acceptable minimums in respect of the provision of information by manufacturers and installers.