

Rescue Gear Service Life Checklist

HARNESSES **10-year service life***

- Harness has surpassed 10-year manufacture date.
- Webbing shows signs of cuts, significantly worn or frayed areas, soft or hard spots.
- Webbing shows signs of discolored or melted fibers.
- Stitching shows signs of pulled threads, abrasion, or breaks.
- Hardware shows signs of damage, sharp edges, excessive wear, or improper function.
- Harness has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse.
- If there is any doubt about the integrity of the harness.

ROPE / WEBBING / STRAPS / CORD

10-year service life*

- Chafed, glazed or discolored surfaces (these areas should receive a more thorough inspection).
- Abrasions or cuts in the sheath where the core is exposed.
- Variation of diameter of the rope that could indicate potential damage to the core fibers.
- Soft or hard spots that could indicate core damage or that the fibers have been overstressed.
- Rope has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse.
- If the history of use or manufacture date cannot be determined.

CARABINERS **Indefinite service life***

- Carabiner has been dropped a significant distance.
- Exposed to heat sufficient enough to alter the surface appearance.
- Cracks, distortion, or deep gouges.
- Corrosion or deep pitted rust.
- Sharp edges that could cause damage to life safety rope.
- Gate does not line up when closed.
- Gate action does not return to closed position when opened and released.
- Locking mechanism does not fully engage.
- Complete history of use cannot be determined.

DESCENT CONTROL DEVICES

Indefinite service life*

- Cracks, deformations, or elongation to any portion of the device.
- Corrosion or deep pitted rust.
- Deep scratches or gouges to any portion of the device.
- Sharp edges that could cause damage to life safety rope.
- Excessive wear to friction surfaces or cam (see wear indicator on some devices).
- Device has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse.
- If the history of use or manufacture date cannot be determined.

ASCENDERS **Indefinite service life***

- Cracks, deformations, or elongation to any portion of the device.
- Corrosion or deep pitted rust.
- Deep scratches or gouges to any portion of the device.
- Sharp edges that could cause damage to life safety rope.
- Fouled teeth on cam (handled type ascenders).
- Excessive wear to surface of cam.
- Damage to rivets (if applicable).

PULLEYS **Indefinite service life***

- Pulley has been dropped a significant distance.
- Exposed to heat sufficient enough to alter the surface appearance.
- Cracks, dents, or elongation at the carabiner hole on side plates.
- Corrosion or deep pitted rust.
- Deep scratches or gouges to side plates or sheave(s).
- Sharp edges that could cause damage to life safety rope.
- Side plates that do not line up at the carabiner hole.
- Elongation of the side plates at the sheave pin.
- Side plates that do not move freely.
- Sheave does not turn freely or significantly rubs against side plate.
- Item has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse.
- If the history of use or manufacture date cannot be determined.



*The service life of rescue equipment varies greatly depending on the type of use as well as the environment of use and storage. The 10-year service life for nylon/polyester products comes from ASTM F1740-96. Always follow manufacturers' recommendations for care, use and retirement. If in doubt, throw it out!

Roco Guidelines for Rescue Equipment Service Life

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