



Working at Height Association

Reaching new levels in safety

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Recertification of Installed Systems

Date of Issue: 25th August 2021

Version 2

WAHA-TB-004.02

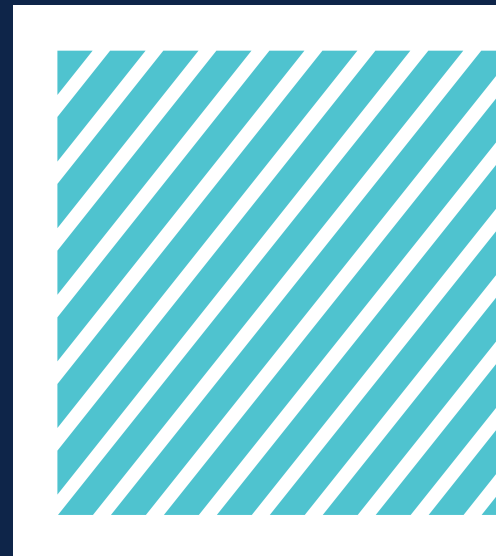
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WHILST ALL CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PREPARE INFORMATION THAT IS FACTUAL AND IN ALIGNMENT WITH ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS, THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON SOLELY AS A PRESCRIPTIVE GUIDELINE. ALL ERROR AND OMISSION ARE EXCEPTED.



Technical Bulletin

Recertification of Installed Systems

PURPOSE

To clearly define the way in which WAHA Members will act in support of the inspection and re-certification of fixed height safety systems.

DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Technical Bulletin, fixed height safety products and systems (the “Products / Systems”) are deemed to comprise the following:-

- Single point anchors and anchor point systems;
- Horizontal and vertical static line and rail systems;
- Handrails and guard rails; and,
- Ladders and platforms.

There may be a number of products from different manufacturers in any particular system.

EXPECTATION OF WAHA MEMBERS

Extract from the WAHA Code of Conduct

- To promote the use of Working-at-Height and Confined Space products manufactured and certified to the appropriate Australian Standards.
- To promote the safe use of Working-at-Height and Confined Spaces equipment in line with Australian Standards and the appropriate Safe Work Australia Codes of Practice.
- To conduct all business activities ethically and with integrity and respect for the community.

Manufacturer Position / Accountabilities

- Design, manufacture, test and certify individual products in conformance with appropriate Australian Standards.
- Ensure that system products are only sold to companies that have been trained and certified by the Manufacturer as competent in the design of fixed height safety systems using those products as well as the correct installation and testing of the individual products and complete system.
- Product Manufacturers may opt to retain the design of fixed height safety systems in house. Where this is the case there must be an audit process in place to ensure that their accredited System Installers install products in line with the overall system design.
- Manufacturers must ensure that those in charge of the usage of the fixed height safety system have adequate options for the ongoing competent re-certification of those systems.
- Anchor Manufacturers may train and accredit System Installers as Re-certifiers and may elect to appoint, train and accredit additional specialist Re-certifiers.

Designer Position / Accountabilities

- Ensure that the structure is suitable to support the loads anticipated in the event of a fall and that the installation can be carried out in a safe manner.
- Develop and document the work method to be utilised to undertake required tasks and design the system in line with that work method - including safe access to, and egress from, the system.
- Document all aspects of the work method and the system design and make available to the system owner.

Installer Position / Accountabilities

- The System Installer must ensure that any employee involved in Product installation work has been trained and has current certification from the Manufacturer on the specific Product being installed.
- The System Installer must install Products exactly to the System Design - whether the system has been self designed or designed by the Manufacturer.
- The System Installer must test and certify the installation of individual Products and the System in line with the Manufacturers instructions.
- All details of the Product / System - including installation instructions for each individual style of Product and the ongoing re-certification requirements - must be provided to the System Owner, along with clear advice that this documentation must be retained at all times.
- Advice should also be provided by the System Installer on where to access information on the Product / System - including the Manufacturer's fixing information - should the system file become lost.
- The System Installer should advise the Product / System Owner of the date by which the individual Products or System must be re-certified. These dates should be noted on the system access identification plates.
- The System Installer should retain a copy of all Product / System data for future use if required by the System Owner.
- A Product / System Installer may opt to receive additional training from the Manufacturer to be accredited as a Re-certifier for those products.

System Owner Position

- The Product / System Owner must retain the Product / System files and have them readily accessible to record Product / System usage and any maintenance issues.
- The Product / System owner must make the Product / System file available to the Product / System Re-Certifier.
- The System Owner must make Product / System usage instruction available to any approved Product / System user.
- In the event of any incident or Product / System failure, the System Owner must take the Product / System out of service and arrange for inspection, repair and recertification by a System Installer accredited by the Product / System Manufacturer.
- The Product / System Owner is responsible for arranging re-certification of the Product / System before the specified re-certification date.
- Should the Product / System require alteration or additions due to new or additional operational requirements, the existing Product / System should be taken out of service and a complete redesign undertaken. The redesign may incorporate part or all of the existing Product / System - but the reworked design must be undertaken by an accredited System Designer.
- Any alterations to the Product / System should be conducted by an accredited System Installer and follow the guidelines of the System / Product Manufacturer.

Re-Certifier Position

- A Product / System Re-certifier - whether an accredited System Installer or an independent System Re-certifier - should be competent in the skills needed to detect faults in height safety equipment and to determine remedial action (ASNZS 1891.4 Section 1.4.8). Equipment inspectors must have been trained and assessed (as competent) in height safety theory and in the identification and assessment of all defects that may occur on any equipment they may be required to inspect. This includes application of manufacturers' recommendations, where they exist. (ASNZS 1891.4. Section 2.2.11 (iv)).
- The Product / System Owner must make the system file available to the System Recertifier to enable the recertification process to begin.
- If information is missing from the system file, the Product / System Owner should arrange for a replacement copy from the System Installer or the last Product / System Re-certifier. The Product / System Installer or Re-certifier may charge for this service.
- If a Product / System Re-certifier cannot access the required data from the system file, they should obtain information from the Product / System Manufacturer and forward to the Product / System Owner.
- Where any part of the system cannot be re-certified, any system dependent on that failed part must be taken out of service and the original Product / System Installer should be contacted by the Product / System Owner to arrange for repairs.
- If the original Product / System Installer cannot effect the repairs, the System Owner should contact the Product / System Manufacturers to obtain details of other accredited installers for that Product.
- Where an alternative installer of the existing manufactured product cannot be located, the system should be taken out of service and a complete redesign undertaken.
- In issuing re-certification for a Product / System, the System Re-Certifier takes on responsibility for the ongoing integrity of that Product / System - subject to regular usage inspections that may require its removal from service - until the subsequent recertification date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For any additional information, please refer to other Technical Bulletins on the WAHA website. Please use the links on this website to contact your Member Company of choice at:-



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