

Welcome.
Let us know what you think.

[View this email in your browser](#)

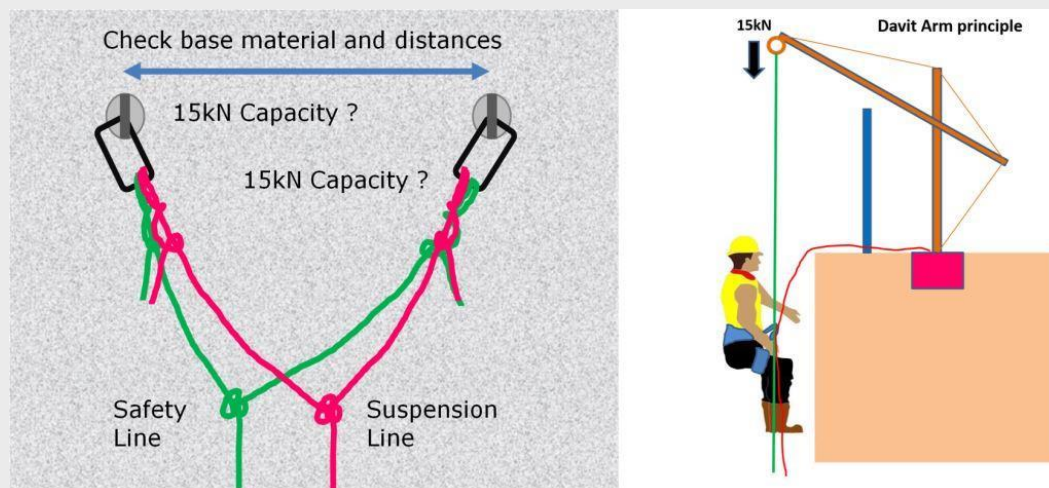


? 2016

Dear Test First Name

Welcome to the latest 2016 **Height Safety News**.

This month we identify serious loading concerns with Rope Access support points, we comment on the need to change the term "Fall Restraint" as it seems meaningless, and we look at competence to select and purchase PFPE.



Rope Access support

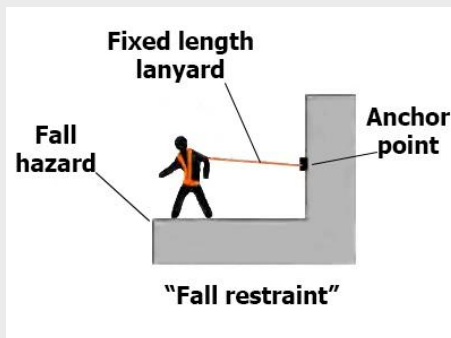
The support point capacity for a Rope Access anchor is 15 kN (almost 1500 kgf, or about 1.5 tonnes), in the direction of the likely load. This has been the case for many years (check BS7985, or the IRATA code, annex F). This year I have come across a "spate" of otherwise competent RA "advisors" using all manner of much lighter loads to define capacity for

both permanent and temporary anchor points. They are dangerously wrong. Many simply use 150 kgs, which is totally inadequate, and some are using 250 kgs which is equally inappropriate.

The maximum "permissible" load in a fall situation is referenced consistently within the EN Standards as 6 kN. Arrest forces above this load will result in significant injury. IRATA recognise that the energy absorption of the support rope increases with rope length, and that there is the potential for equipment failure at the top of a support rope. In this position there is very little rope to absorb fall energy.

- IRATA apply a factor of safety of 2.5 to this 6 kN maximum load to reach the load capacity of 15 kN.
- IRATA justify this with reference to the need to potentially use the support anchor for rescue.
- The engineering is this simple. We need to start specifying 15 kN capacity anchors, and nothing else.

Please note, as mentioned in an earlier Height Safety News .. EN 795 anchors require a structural capacity of 12 kN now .. and therefore at least two should be used for RA works. EN 795 is the wrong reference for RA support.



What does "**Fall Restraint**" mean? Is it an "oxymoron"?

Restraint, means that the worker cannot get into a position from which they can fall. They are Prevented from falling. They are operating



Dorsal Extender

The dorsal extender is a vital piece of equipment, frequently overlooked by those purchasing harnesses and lanyards.

The dorsal extender permits the user to connect to, and control,

within the third level of the Work at Height hierarchy, Personal Fall Prevention.

Fall .. means they can fall. They accelerate under force of gravity .. things then normally go badly they are much further down the hierarchy. I frequently see this "odd term" used in specification and RAMS ... what is it trying to say .. fall prevention, or not ? May I, please, start a campaign to use the term **Restraint** for Personal Fall Prevention .. at least we then know what we are trying to achieve.

both overhead inertia blocks, and waist level adjustable anchorage lines. Without it, the user is out of control when using these two frequently selected work solutions.

Competence is not only a requirement of the user of this equipment, it is also a requirement of the specifier and purchaser.

If this is not clear, drop me a line.

I am desperately saddened by the continuing number of "fall through" accidents. The majority being through fragile surfaces like sheeted roofs. If you want to stay abreast of all things **Construction Safety**, I suggest you register with [PP Construction Safety](#), for their weekly updates. This involves no cost, and gives a clear insight into all that is happening in Construction Safety. It is however depressing how often "Falls" and their consequences make appearances in the [PP Construction Safety](#) updates. Check out the recent massive rise in fines !!

For more news detail go to :-

www.highersafety.org

**Copyright © *2014 Higher Safety Ltd. all rights reserved.
Our mailing address is: info@highersafety.org**

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)