

BS EN 362:2004

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AGAINST FALLS FROM A HEIGHT

CONNECTORS

The static (tensile) strength requirements are for the karabiner to withstand typical loads of 20kN in the main direction of force for three minutes.

If this weight seems high when compared to a person with a weight around 1kN (roughly 16 stone), but dynamic forces as a fall is arrested can be much higher than the dead weight of the load alone.

Additionally, this includes a factor of safety of more than 2.5 (assuming a maximum arrest force of 6kN is allowable in a system).

There are strength tests to ensure the gate can withstand side loads (1.0 or 1.5kN, depending on the direction) and not allow the rope to be released when the gate is locked, while still allowing the gate to be opened when necessary.

This is assessed by measuring gate movement while the load is being applied and gate function after the load is released.

Corrosion can weaken karabiners affecting its moving parts. To test this the karabiner is placed in a corrosive atmosphere of warm saltwater mist for 48 hours (EN 362) after which a visual assessment to determine the level of corrosion before a final assessment of the affect on the karabiners static strength as a result of this procedure.

Inspection

Work at height components should be inspected by a trained competent person before every use. For your assistance we have included an Inspection Card to record the inspection.

An audited inspection by a qualified inspector must be made at least every twelve months, regardless of usage.