

## PART 11: FALL PROTECTION

- Removal from service**    11.10    (1) After a fall protection system has arrested the fall of a worker, it must
- (a) be removed from service, and
  - (b) not be returned to service until it has been inspected and recertified as safe for use by the manufacturer or its authorized agent, or by a professional engineer.
- (2) **Subject to subsection (3), subsection (1) (b) does not apply to a personal fall protection system designed and intended for reuse by a performer in the entertainment industry for conducting a planned fall sequence.**
- (3) **The following conditions must be met before a personal fall protection system described in subsection (2) will be exempt from subsection (1) (b):**
- (a) **the system must be designed and used in accordance with a standard acceptable to the Board;**
  - (b) **each use of the system must be carried out in accordance with the plan for the conduct of the fall;**
  - (c) **the peak arrest forces generated in the system during each use must be at or below both the planned limits and the maximum forces allowed for the system;**
  - (d) **after each use of the system no part of the system, including the anchorage, may be reused until a qualified person has inspected it and determined it is in serviceable condition and safe for reuse.**
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### Explanatory Note

This proposed amendment is intended to address concerns from the entertainment industry over the application of section 11.10 to stunt work in their industry. Personal fall arrest systems are sometimes used to assist with the execution of a planned fall sequence. When this equipment is used in this manner it should be treated differently than a fall arrest system intended to arrest an accidental fall.

The entertainment industry uses a variety of equipment and techniques to create scenes where one or more persons fall or move in a controlled manner from a starting position to a lower level, generally trying to simulate a dramatic fall sequence. These sequences sometimes involve the use of a personal fall arrest system designed to allow the sequence to be performed to provide the desired effect while ensuring the performer's fall is ultimately controlled and arrested without injury to the performer. Generally many or all of the system components are designed and intended to be reused. Provided the fall goes "according to plan", the equipment should not be damaged and thus should, after inspection, be available for reuse.

The forces placed on the various components of a personal fall protection system during a planned fall sequence can be determined and controlled by the planning of the sequence. Provided a fall goes as planned, there is no need for the fall protection system to be removed from service until the system can be inspected and recertified by the manufacturer or an engineer. A qualified person familiar with the equipment and the stunt plan and involved in the stunt sequence, either as an observer or the stunt performer, should be able to inspect the system components after the fall. This will allow the qualified person to decide if the fall sequence went according to plan, and following the inspection, if the equipment is safe for further use. If a fall sequence does not go according to the plan, or the inspection reveals damage or wear

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beyond acceptable limits, the qualified person must take the system out of service until it has been inspected and certified by the manufacturer or an engineer.

Note that section 11.9 requires a fall protection system must be inspected by a qualified person before use on each workshift.

The industrial standards for fall protection equipment published by CSA and ANSI are not appropriate for the needs of the stunt industry for the application under discussion.

In support of this proposal for regulatory change, the entertainment industry in BC, through their industry association, SHAPE, has worked closely with the Worker and Employer Services Division of WorkSafeBC to develop a standard for personal fall protection gear intended for reuse for stunt performance in their industry, as well as criteria for inspection of the equipment after each use. WorkSafeBC has published a guideline, *G11.2-6 Fall protection during stunt work*, <http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart11.asp#SectionNumber:G11.2-6> setting out how the standard and criteria are to be applied under the current *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* provisions. If changes to section 11.10 are successfully made, the guideline will be amended to reflect the updated regulatory language.