

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 027 – FALL ARREST SYSTEMS

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for selection and use of fall-arrest systems at Illusions Australia.

Fall arrest is a lower-order fall control and must only be used where higher-order controls cannot reasonably eliminate or prevent the fall risk and the work has been properly planned.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only trained, competent and authorised workers may use fall-arrest equipment.

Workers must understand harness fitting, compatible connectors, approved anchor systems, fall clearance, pendulum/swing-fall hazards and rescue requirements.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Full-body harness appropriate to the system.
- Compatible lanyard, inertia reel or connecting device as specified.
- Helmet with secure retention where required.
- Safety footwear.
- Other task-specific PPE.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Higher-order fall controls have been considered first.
- Harness, lanyards, connectors and labels show no damage or expiry/inspection issue.
- Anchor point/system is approved and suitable for the intended load and direction.
- Required fall clearance is available.
- Swing-fall/pendulum risk is controlled.
- Sharp edges and heat will not damage equipment.
- A rescue plan and means of prompt rescue are in place.
- Weather and work conditions are suitable.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Inspect equipment before each use.
2. Fit and adjust harness correctly.
3. Connect only to the approved anchor/system using compatible components.
4. Maintain continuous protection where exposure exists.
5. Keep connection as high as practicable where the system design permits to reduce free-fall distance.

6. Avoid climbing above the anchor where this increases free fall beyond system limits.
7. Keep lanyards clear of sharp edges and moving plant.
8. Stop and reassess if the work position or anchor arrangement changes.
9. After use, inspect and store equipment clean, dry and protected.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Use fall-arrest equipment without a rescue plan.
- Connect to unapproved pipes, handrails, conduits or structural items not designed as anchors.
- Tie knots in lanyards.
- Use damaged, contaminated or previously fall-loaded equipment unless formally cleared.
- Mix incompatible components.
- Work where fall clearance is insufficient.
- Use fall arrest as the first choice where a higher-order control is reasonably practicable.

7. RESCUE AND SUSPENSION

A worker left suspended after a fall can suffer serious harm; rescue must be prompt and planned.

- Ensure rescue equipment and competent assistance are available.
- Do not rely solely on emergency services as the rescue plan.
- Practise/brief the rescue method where appropriate.

8. ANCHORS AND CLEARANCE

The system must arrest the fall before the worker strikes a lower level or structure.

- Verify anchor suitability.
- Calculate/confirm clearance including lanyard extension and worker height.
- Control swing-fall hazards.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Remove equipment from service after a fall, visible damage, chemical/heat contamination, failed inspection or uncertain history.

Tag and quarantine suspect equipment for competent assessment.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Inspect after use.
- Store harnesses and connectors away from sunlight, chemicals, moisture and sharp objects.
- Record inspections where required.
- Quarantine defective equipment.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.

3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- No suitable anchor is available.
- Fall clearance is inadequate.
- Rescue cannot be promptly achieved.
- Equipment is damaged or inspection status is uncertain.
- Weather or site conditions make the system unsafe.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 027 – Fall Arrest Systems
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