

Self-Retracting Devices for Drilling and Service Rigs

Description

There is a recognized hazard where the available anchorage and necessary movement of a worker using a self-retracting device (SRD) on an oil drilling and/or service rig is such that the cable or webbing of an SRD could come in contact with a structural edge of the rig (column and/or girder). The use of 3M SRD's for fall protection on drilling and/or service rigs (or similar applications where the SRD is not located directly overhead of the work area and the risk of contacting a structural edge is apparent) is acceptable under certain circumstances provided special precautions are taken as described in this bulletin.

The following guidelines must be followed when using SRD's in areas where structural edges are in abundance:

- 1) Swing fall hazards may exist, especially when working near corners, or working outwardly away from the SRD. Added fall clearance distances may be required, depending on the nature of the swing fall hazard. Collision with objects during a swing fall should be guarded against.
- 2) The total fall distance may be greater if the SRD is not mounted directly overhead. Therefore, increased clearance distances are required and must be calculated to prevent striking a lower level or obstruction.
- 3) Where the potential to impact on a structural edge exists, a lifeline shall be protected by an energy absorber. In keeping with CSA Z259.2.2-17, any SRD used in this application or where the user connects to the anchorage below the harness D-ring shall be of the Class SRL-LE (Self-Retracting Lifeline-Leading Edge) variety. Generally, SRL-LE's contain a heavier wire rope lifeline and a built-in energy absorber for added protection against lifeline damage when contact is made with sharp edges.
- 4) Sharp abrasive edges, which the lifeline may contact during a fall, could cut or damage the SRD's lifeline. Sharp edges must be avoided or protected or guarded from damaging the lifeline. Falls where the lifeline may slide along a sharp edge must also be guarded against.
- 5) All applicable instructions for use should be reviewed, understood and followed.
- 6) Employee training should be conducted to help ensure a safe working environment.

Personal Safety Division

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