

G11.7 Temporary horizontal lifelines

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Section 11.7 of the *OHS Regulation* states:

A temporary horizontal lifeline system may be used if the system is

- (a) manufactured for commercial distribution and installed and used in accordance with the written instructions from the manufacturer or authorized agent, and the instructions are readily available in the workplace,
- (b) installed and used in accordance with written instructions certified by a professional engineer, and the instructions are readily available in the workplace, or
- (c) designed, installed and used in a manner acceptable to the Board.

This guideline describes an acceptable temporary horizontal lifeline system.

Under section 11.7(a) if there are any written instructions from the manufacturer or authorized agent, the written instructions need to be readily available. Likewise, under 11.7(b), if there are any written instructions certified by a professional engineer, they must be readily available. For the purpose of section 11.7(c), a temporary horizontal lifeline system for fall restraint is acceptable if it provides an ultimate load capacity of at least 3.5 kN (800 pounds) for each worker connected to it. "Ultimate load capacity" is determined with the design loads applied perpendicular to the span of the line and at critical locations for sizing the components.

A temporary horizontal lifeline system used for fall arrest is acceptable under section 11.7(c) if it meets the following requirements:

- The horizontal lifeline is a minimum 12 millimetres (1/2 inch) diameter wire rope having a breaking strength specified by the manufacturer of at least 89 kN (20,000 pounds).
- The horizontal lifeline is free of splices except at the terminations.
- Connecting hardware such as shackles and turnbuckles has an ultimate load capacity of at least 71 kN (16,000 pounds).
- The span is at least 6 metres (20 feet) and not more than 18 metres (60 feet).
- End anchors have an ultimate load capacity of at least 71 kN (16,000 pounds).
- The horizontal lifeline has an unloaded sag of approximately the span length divided by 60.
- The elevation of the line at any point is at least 1 metre (39 inches) above the working surface.
- The free fall distance is limited to 1.2 metres (4 feet).
- A minimum of 3.5 metres (12 feet) of unobstructed clearance is available below the working surface.
- No more than 3 workers are secured to the horizontal lifeline.
- The horizontal lifeline is positioned so it does not impede the safe movement of workers.