



Designers, Manufacturers & Suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment

## Statement of Obsolescence

Due to the ingress of dirt and grit, chemical contamination, edge and surface damage, ultraviolet light degradation, and general wear and tear Fall Protection Equipment manufactured from synthetic fibres (webbing and/or rope) are subject to a manufacturer's statement of obsolescence which is a requirement of BS EN 365:2004 a European Product Standard.

Any item of Fall Protection Equipment manufactured by Pammenter and Petrie Limited with synthetic fibre components (webbing and/or rope) is subject to a maximum working life of 5 years from the recorded date of first use, provided that the item has been correctly stored, maintained and subjected to regular inspections by a trained and competent person. However, if the item fails any inspection it **MUST** be destroyed.

A new item of Fall Protection Equipment manufactured by Pammenter and Petrie Limited may be stored for a maximum of 2 years and still give the potential 5 year working life – provided it remains in the original manufacturer's packaging. Once the product is taken from this original packaging for the first time this date becomes the "date of first use", which should be recorded on the Certificate of Conformity and the 5 year working life begins.

Reference should also be made to the British Standard BS 8437:2005 – "The code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace" – clause 13.2 Lifespan, which states:

"Some equipment is given a lifespan or obsolescence date by the manufacturer. Equipment that has reached such a limit, which has not already been rejected for other reasons, should be withdrawn from service and not used again, unless or until confirmed by a competent person, in writing, that it is acceptable to do so."

It should be noted that inspections carried out by a trained and competent person are only visual and tactile observations of the condition of the product; they are not testing the residual strength of the equipment. All synthetic fibres deteriorate slowly with age regardless of use and as a result Pammenter and Petrie Limited strongly advise all users of Fall Protection Equipment to follow the manufacturer's statement of obsolescence.

For further advice on this statement, as well as training in the use and inspection of Fall Protection Equipment, please contact Pammenter and Petrie Limited.

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