

# Information sheet lifespan of PPE against fall

This information is valid for all euroline® PPE products - even retroactively from production in 2012.

## maximum lifespan 12 years

The maximum lifespan of euroline® synthetic and textile products at best condition of storage and without use is 12 years from date of manufacture.

## maximum operating lifetime 10 years

The maximum operating lifetime with occasional and appropriate use without obvious wear and with optimal storage is 10 years from the date of first use.

## storage period 2 years

The storage period before the first use without reducing the maximum operating lifetime is 2 years from date of manufacture.

$$\text{storage period} + \text{operating lifetime} = \text{lifespan}$$

The lifespan of your PSA is dependent on the particular application and cannot be defined universally due to the different frequency of use, care and diligence in storage. In extreme cases, PPE against fall from heights may already be damaged at the first use and has to be taken out of service immediately. For this reason, a careful monitoring of the PPE has to be made before and after each use.

The maximum lifespan of euroline® PPE-products in synthetic and textile material is 12 years from the date of production. The life of metal fittings/products is generally unlimited; however a periodic inspection of metal fittings/products must be carried out regarding damage and wear. Extreme conditions of use can cause the elimination of a product after only using once (type and intensity of use, field of application, aggressive environment, sharp edges, extreme temperatures, chemical substances etc.).

A euroline® PPE-product must definitely be discarded:

- in case of damage to supporting parts, which are essential for safety, such as ropes, webbings and seams (tears, cuts or other)
- damage to plastic and/or metal fittings
- in case of strain by a fall or heavy load
- after expiry of the lifespan if it is more than 12 years old and made of synthetic or textile material or if it contains synthetic or textile components
- if a product does not seem safe or reliable anymore
- if the product is outdated and does not comply with technical standards anymore (modification of legal regulations, norms and technical rules, incompatibility with other equipment etc.)
- if the history of use is unknown or incomplete
- if the identification of the product does not exist or if it is illegible or missing (even partly)
- if the instructions for use/test manual of the product are missing

If the visual inspection carried out by the holder of the equipment or the competent person results in complaint or if the PPE has elapsed, it has to be discarded. The elimination has to be made in such a way that reuse in action can definitely be excluded (e.g. by cutting and disposing of belts, ropes, fittings etc.).

With normal use and observation of the instructions for use, the realistic application period

**for full body harnesses is 6 to 8 years**

**for ropes is 4 to 6 years**

**for tape fall-absorbers is 5 years**

Basis: BGR 198 - Rules for safety and health at work by the Employer's Liability Insurance Association (BG-rules)/ DE

Only in case of less frequent use it is possible to extend these deadlines to the maximum (12 years). In case of frequent use, intensive wear or extreme environmental influences, the allowed period of use becomes shorter. The decision is up to the responsible competent person within the prescribed periodic inspection.

Decisions for or against the purchase of a PPE against falling from a height are often based on the lifespan. This is wrong, because all manufacturers of PPEs against falling from a height use the same raw materials. For this reason the lifespan is exclusively subject to the frequency of use, the conditions of use, diligent care and storage. Therefore decisions for or against a PPE against falling from a height should be made on the basis of other criteria, such as quality, functionality, ergonomics, wearing acceptance by the user, customer service, etc.

Another probably important decision criterion for you is the fact that euroline® PPE products against falling from heights are manufactured in Austria - **we are proud of „Made in Austria“.**

