



RE: Horizontal function of Checkmate Fall Arrest Blocks

Dear Sirs,

There is no current harmonized EN standard to cover the use of Fall Arrest Block horizontally, and this statement covers the function of the device only. The Checkmate range of fall arrest blocks (including FAB range and Xcalibre blocks) will operate horizontally, i.e. the locking function or braking systems are not affected by rotation or orientation of the device. We do however stress that if used in a horizontal form the user has checked for sharp edges, risk of pendulum (SWING) falls, and that the area beneath is clear from any obstruction. If present, these risks must be address as necessary before continuing.

There is also a tendency for the wire rope to drop to one side of the block due to gravity and periodically the lifeline should be pulled out to its entire length and allowed to return slowly and under control. If necessary this should be completed with the block hanging vertically.

Any of the above or the guidance given does not however negate the need for a thorough risk assessment that includes, ground clearance, obstructions, swing falls, anchorage height, sharp edges etc and the provision for rescue.

Yours Faithfully

Duncan Barrier
Technical Manager
Checkmate Lifting & Safety LLP