

Capital Safety • 20 Fariola Street • Silverwater, NSW 2128 • Phone 02 9748 0335 • Fax 02 9748 0336

Technical Bulletin

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Subject: Tag Lines for Self-Retracting Lifelines

Capital Safety recommends that a tag line be used to allow a self-retracting lifeline (SRL) to fully retract back into the housing during extended periods of non-use. A retracting line that is paid out for extended periods of time may cause premature weakening of the SRL's retraction spring, therefore, affecting the operation of the SRL.

- 1. A tag line is a separate line that is used exclusively for allowing the SRL's line to retract back into the housing during non-use. The tag line is attached to the SRL's connecting hook and is long enough to allow the SRL line to retract in fully.
- 2. An extended period of time is defined as anything greater than a 24-hour period.
- 3. When using a tag line, it should be controlled as the SRL's line is retracted back into the housing. Do not allow the tag line/SRL line to uncontrollably retract at a high rate of speed.
- 4. Depending on the work site environment and conditions, it may be necessary to restrain the tag line to prevent interference and entanglement with equipment or machinery.
- 5. Tag lines shall not be used directly for personal fall arrest, restraint, work position, personnel riding, or rescue applications.
- 6. Typical tag line materials include small diameter (5mm to 8mm) lightweight ropes made of materials such as polypropylene or nylon.
- 7. All applicable manufacturers' instructions for the SRL shall be followed.

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