

Directive 89/686/CEE

Article L.233-5 of Law No.91-1414 introduced this directive in the form of three decrees: 92-765, 92-766 and 92-768.

These decree:

- The marketing of PPE.
- The definition of PPE: by PPE we refer to any device or means designed to be carried or held by a person for the purpose of protecting them against risks that are harmful to their health and safety.
- Conformity between the member States and unrestricted inter-community circulation
- The design varies in accordance with three levels of risk:
 - Minor risk,
 - Risk of serious bodily injury,
 - Risk of death.
- Included, for example, in the list of risks that could cause death are:
 - the PPE fall prevention devices

The technical rules and conformity certification procedures applicable to PPE relating to risk of death.

- The scope of the type of CE examinations is established by approved bodies that are State registered and recommended to the Commission.
- The manufacturer is obliged (appendix to the Directive) to establish a user manual that specially includes instructions on storage and maintenance.

Directive 89/656/CEE

The setting up of European Labour Laws places a certain number of obligations on the chief executives of companies that have to be respected in relation to the provision, the availability and the maintenance of P.P.E in terms of their employees.

Various texts, among which are Decrees No. 65-41 of 11/01/93 and 93-41 of 11/06/93, cover the conditions for recourse to PPE and their use .

The main provisions concern the following obligations:

- To make freely available on a personal basis the appropriate PPE required for the work to be carried out.
- Check that the correct PPE have been selected following an analysis of their capability and the risks involved
- Offered by the P.P.E.
- Check that the PPE is used correctly
- Check the conformity of the PPE provided
- Keep the people entrusted with PPE implementation and maintenance informed. Lay down the conditions for providing, using, maintenance of PPE. Usage instructions are laid down by in-house recommendations or rules. The instructions must be observed by the user who, in the event of refusal, accepts full legal responsibility.
- Ensure correct operation and a satisfactory level of hygiene by carrying out the maintenance, repair and replacement appropriate to the PPE.

N.B: For equipment used as protection against high level falls, these should be subject to a general, periodic inspection within 12 months after their use. This inspection should be performed by a qualified person, whether or not a member of the establishment concerned, who has been approved by the chief executive of the company. The results of this inspection should be recorded in the safety register and retained for a period of 5 years.

- This register should be kept constantly up to date and be available for inspection by the Works Inspectorate and CHSCT.

It should contain the nature of the equipment, the yearly inspection results, repairs and modification updates of P.P.E used as protection against high level falls.

- Notify users of the risks the PPE is used to protect them against, conditions of use, PPE recommendations and instructions and when they should be made available.
- Train users in wearing the P.P.E . This training should be renewed whenever necessary so that the P.P.E is used in compliance with its usage instructions.

Employee's obligations

- For their part, it is incumbent on each worker to take good care of their health and their safety in accordance with their tasks and training and also of people who are affected by any acts or omissions in their work.
- Each time before use, the user should ensure that the equipment is in a satisfactory condition.
- Any omission in following safety instructions could, in the event of accident, lead to legal proceedings.
- **NONETHELESS, THE COMPANY CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD IN ALL CASES CONFIRM THAT THE PPE IS USED CORRECTLY**

STANDARDISED PRODUCTS WITHOUT CE MARKING

- **NF EN 1496** **RESCUE EQUIPMENT**
RESCUE LIFTING DEVICES
- **NF EN 1497** **RESCUE EQUIPMENT**
RESCUE HARNESS
- **NF EN 1498** **RESCUE EQUIPMENT**
RESCUE WEBBING STRAPS
- **NF EN 795** **ANCHORING DEVICES**
- **CLASS A1 -A2 -** **FIXED ANCHOR POINTS**
- **CLASS C -** **FLEXIBLE HORIZONTAL BELAYING SUPPORTS**
- **CLASS D -** **RIGID HORIZONTAL BELAYING SUPPORTS**
- Anchoring devices are exclusively designed to be used with individual preventive equipment against high level falls.
- Only classes B and E are completely covered by the PPE directive.
- The parts and components of class A, C, D systems can be covered by the Directive pertaining to PPE in addition to the other Directives, as for example, that pertaining to construction products.
- The installation of interfaces with the structure is not covered by the PPE Directive.

P.P.E against high level falls

- Definition of a P.P.E against high level falls. EN363
- The present Standard lays down the terminology and the requirements relating to fall break systems used as individual protection equipment against high level falls. In addition, this Standard describes by means of an example, the manner in which the components or the assemblies of components can be linked to a fall break system. These examples should enable the purchaser or the user to correctly assemble all the components making up a fall break system.
- NB: a fall break system does not include anchoring points other than the appropriate anchoring points, such as those specified in the EN795 Standard, and which are indispensable for all fall break systems.