

## Background

Historically, MSA fall protection products have required periodic examination with varying frequencies and qualifications. Typically, this consisted of a formal competent person inspection at least every six months. However, in light of recent standards updates and market trends, MSA is consolidating the inspection requirements for all fall protection products.

## Current Overall Stance

The following statement applies to all MSA/Latchways fall protection products both new and already in use.

**“...MUST be formally inspected by a competent person at least annually after the date of first use or more frequently if subjected to harsh conditions, excessive use, or a more restrictive local standard. The competent person must be authorized by current legislation in the country of use.”**

Date of first use: The date the unit is removed from the packaging. Date of first use shall be administratively provable. Where the date of first use is unknown, then the next previous administratively provable date shall be used, e.g. date of purchase or date of manufacture.

Additionally, MSA instructions typically state to record inspections in the provided inspection log. It is acceptable for the equipment owner to utilize an alternate inspection recording method according to their specific needs.

## Specific Recommendations

While the statement above applies to all MSA/Latchways products, there are some products that have more specific recommended examination frequencies and levels of qualification of the examiner determined by type of use. See Tables 1 - 3. Products not covered by the tables are still covered by the general statement above.

See Table 4 for definitions of key terms.

Type of Use	Application Examples	Conditions of Use	Inspection Frequency Competent Person
Infrequent to Light	Rescue & confined space, Factory maintenance	Good storage conditions, indoor or infrequent outdoor use, room temperature, clean environments	Annually
Moderate to Heavy	Transportation, Residential construction, Utilities, Warehouse	Fair storage conditions, indoor and extended outdoor use, all temperatures, clean or dusty environments	Semi-annually to annually
Severe to Continuous	Commercial construction, Oil & Gas, Mining	Harsh storage conditions, prolonged or continuous outdoor use, all temperatures, dirty environment	Quarterly to semi-annually

**Table 1: Competent Person Examination Required**  
Latchways – Leading Edge SRL, Standard SRL, Mini PFL;  
Workman – Web/Cable PFL, Mini PFL;  
Aptura, Lynx, Dyna-Lock, Dynevac II, Short-Stop, Sure-Lock  
MSA – V-Tec, V-Shock, V-Edge

Type of Use	Application Examples	Conditions of Use	REQUIRED Competent Person Inspection Frequency	RECOMMENDED Factory Authorized Recertification Frequency
Infrequent to Light	Rescue & confined space, Factory maintenance	Good storage conditions, indoor or infrequent outdoor use, room temperature, clean environments	Annually	At least every 2-5 years
Moderate to Heavy	Transportation, Residential construction, Utilities, Warehouse	Fair storage conditions, indoor and extended outdoor use, all temperatures, clean or dusty environments	Semi-annually to annually	At least every 1-2 years
Severe to Continuous	Commercial construction, Oil & Gas, Mining	Harsh storage conditions, prolonged or continuous outdoor use, all temperatures, dirty environment	Quarterly to semi-annually	At least annually

**Table 2: Competent Person Examination Required, Technician Examination Recommended  
Workman – SRL, Twin PFL, Rescuer, Winch**

Latchways Rescuer/Retrieval SRL
Must be examined by a technician at least annually.

**Table 3: Technician Examination Required  
Latchways Rescuer/Retrieval SRL**

Definitions	
Competent Person	A person, other than the user, who is competent in the examination of the applicable product in accordance with MSA instructions. This examination does not involve any disassembly in order to confirm serviceability. MSA provides competent person training that is valid for 2 years.
Technician	A Competent Person, who is also trained by MSA/Latchways to disassemble, examine, repair, and recertify SRLs, in accordance with instructions. See also "Factory Authorized Recertification" below.
Factory Authorized Recertification	Examination / Inspection completed only by a Technician or MSA service center.
Examination / Inspection	External (Competent Person) and/or internal (Technician) review of product according to instructions provided. Completed at least every 12 months. Local legislation, frequency of use, or environmental conditions (i.e. corrosive chemical environments) may dictate more frequent examination intervals.

**Table 4: Definitions of Key Terms**