

# BAHCO®

## RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE USE OF TOOLS & EQUIPMENT AT HEIGHT



### SAFE USE OF TOOLS & EQUIPMENT AT HEIGHT

#### GENERAL INFORMATION, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

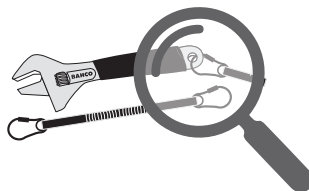
- Tools and portable equipment used at height shall be adequately secured to either the user or the workplace.
- Tools used at height shall have a lanyard attachment point that does not compromise the tool's effectiveness.** The lanyard attachment points on tools should be manufactured in such a way that they cannot be removed.



- Do not modify any tools or securing equipment.



- Securing points for tools and machines must be in place above the work site and the securing device must be as taut as possible.
- All tools, lanyards and attachment points shall be inspected by a competent person prior to use and prior to their return to the Tools at Height Toolkit, to ensure they are fit for purpose.



- "At height" tools shall be used for all tasks undertaken at 2 metres or above, or where there is the potential for tools to drop more than 2 metres, e.g. when working at or near a handrail.

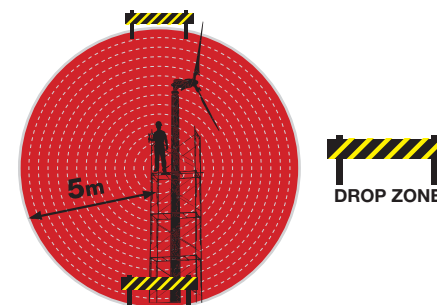


- Users must read and perfectly understand the information provided by the manufacturer before using the device. All personnel working at height and / or using "at height" compliant tools shall be adequately trained. The user takes complete responsibility for the risks deriving from these activities and from using the device.

- If a tool or item of equipment has fallen and a lanyard has arrested the fall, both the lanyard and the tool / equipment shall be reported and removed from service until they can be fully inspected and confirmed as fit for purpose.



- While work at height is ongoing, the "Drop Zone" below the worksite shall be barriered off.



- Durability can be diminished by unusual wear and damage. It depends on how the product is used and how often.
- Every safety equipment should as much as possible be allocated only to the one person who is using it. Use individual number to allocate this product to one user.



- When not in use, “at height” tools must be kept in a secure Tool Storage Facility.
- Tools should be stored in such a manner that a simple visual inspection can highlight any discrepancies or omissions in the toolbox inventory, e.g., 2-colour laser cut foam inserts.
- The Tool Storage Facility shall have a detailed inventory and should be kept locked when not in use.

### TOOLS WITH ATTACHMENT POINTS

- Multi-part tools shall have systems to prevent separation (eg sockets must be locked onto extension bars, ratchets). All hammers shall have steel or steel composite shafts, non-slip handles and a head locking mechanism to prevent separation of the head from the shaft. Sockets, extensions, and ratchets should be pin locked.
- **Tools heavier than 2Kg/4.5 lbs should not be secured to the body; secure them to the adjacent worksite structure.**  
For work on or near rotating machines or travelling equipment, all tools should always be secured to the adjacent structure.
- The use of heavy tools and hand-held machinery at height must be specifically risk assessed.



### LANYARDS WITH CONNECTORS

- All lanyards shall be serial numbered and have date of manufacture. This will enable user to assess age and condition in an objective manner. The Working Load Limit (WLL) should be clearly marked.
- The length of lanyard wire should be appropriate to the unhindered function of the tool. The length of the safety securing device should be as short as possible to minimize the buildup of dynamic fall energy and minimise the risk of snagging on other moving equipment. Every absorbing lanyard and tether can stretch beyond the safe calculations or drop distance. Therefore, the fixed securing wires shall be used on heavy tools at height.
- Lanyards on tools attached to the body should ideally be energy-absorbing (fall damper).
- Synthetic web slings are susceptible to damage in dynamic caustic environments. Minimize exposure to ultraviolet radiation and chemicals as this can affect the integrity of synthetic slings.
- The standard use of wrist lanyards is discouraged, however, it is recognized that they may be appropriate to specific

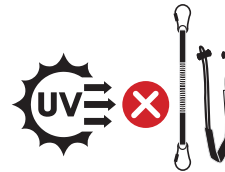
tasks, eg within confined spaces. Velcro wrist lanyards are discouraged where the integrity of the fastening may be affected by the work environment.

- **To avoid any confusion with personal fall arrest devices, do not store nor transport lanyards for tools together with Personal Protective Equipment.**



### LIFTING BAGS

- Flat woven webbing slings **should not be exposed or stored in direct sunlight or sources of ultra-violet radiation.**
- PES (Polyester) is resistant to most mineral acids but is damaged by alkalis.
- Where lifting slings have come into contact with acids and/or alkalis, dilution with water or neutralization with suitable media is recommended prior to storage. Slings which have become wet in use, or as the result of cleaning, should be hung up and allowed to dry naturally.
- PES webbing slings are suitable for use and storage in temperature ranges -40 °C to 100 °C.
- The lifespan of all products will be reduced by normal wear and tear, particularly when used in abrasive or corrosive environments. In extreme circumstances, the life of an item may be reduced to a single use.
- Before first use of the sling, it should be ensured that:
  - the sling should be inspected for defects and to ensure that the identification and specification are correct. A sling that is unidentified or defective should never be used but should be referred to a competent person for examination.
  - the manufacturer's certificate is to hand
  - the identification and WLL (working load limit) marked on the sling correspond with the information on the certificate
- During the period of use, frequent checks should be made for defects or damage, including damage concealed by soiling, which might affect the continued safe use of the sling.



These checks should extend to any fittings and lifting accessories used in association with the sling. **Slings should be checked by an expert at least once a year.**

### INSPECT FOR DEFECTS BEFORE AND DURING USE



- When selecting and specifying slings made from man-made fibers, consideration should be given to the required WLL, taking into account the mode of use and the nature of the load to be lifted.
- Good slinging practices should be followed: **the slinging, lifting and lowering operations should be planned before commencing the lift. Flat woven webbing slings should not be overloaded.**
- Flat woven webbing slings should be correctly positioned and attached to the load in a safe manner.
- Slings should be protected from edges, friction and abrasion, whether from the load or the lifting appliance.
- Care should be taken to ensure the safety of personnel during the lift.
- For unused products, maximum 5 years lifespan from date of manufacture, subject to conventional storage methods.



### SNAE GENERAL WARRANTY

- Any product that has been incorrectly used or incorrectly maintained, or that is worn from improper use or that has suffered unauthorized modifications, is not covered by the General Warranty.
- Any product that has been used under environmental conditions for which it was not designed or that has suffered any damage caused by external influences (water, salt water, chemical, physical, impact, extreme temperatures) or foreign substances is not covered by the General Warranty. In case of loss or the total or partial destruction of the product, the product is not covered by this warranty unless the beneficiary of the warranty provides precise technical proof of the origin of the claim, a material defect or a construction defect, and of the components of the product concerned.