



SAFETY ALERT!

07/09/2021



Fall arrest systems and risks around MAD

WHAT HAPPENED?

Full attachment fall-arrest systems have been adopted since climbing attached was introduced to the NZ Electrical industry in 2005. This safety alert is to raise awareness of live equipment Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) zones on any structure and the application of fall arrest systems in that higher risk area.

Lineworkers are not to use their fall arrest systems such that where in the event of a fall, both vertically or pendulum, a lineworker could breach the MAD to a live conductor/equipment. Planning and procedures for when working in these situations must include suitable methodology to ensure safety from the electrical hazard.

For further reference; EEA Guide to the Use of Personal Fall Arrest Systems and AS/NZS 1891.4.2009 Industrial Fall Arrest Systems and Devices



LEARNINGS

The following are excerpts are from AS/NZS 1891.4.2009, which provides detailed guidance on work at height and in the selection, use and maintenance of fall arrest equipment/devices.

- *“Users of fall arrest systems shall be connected to the structure at all times by at least one fall arrest system whenever they are at risk of a fall.”*
- *“Where fall arrest systems are used and the user is in close proximity to a structure or other obstacles (eg bracing steelwork on lattice structures) clearance from all obstacles in the event of a fall may not be possible. In such cases the selection and use of an arrest system shall be based on minimising the risk of injury to the user. Adjustable lanyards can be used to help reduce fall distance by reducing unwanted slack.”*

All Service Providers and Contractors to Transpower are to review current risk assessments, procedures and equipment for working at heights to ensure compliance with AS/NZ 1891.4.2009 and industry requirements.

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