SAFETY BULLETIN SB1/2024   (TBX - 178)

Defective Harness Stitching (H-STL-UH238LB)

Background - Defective stitching has been found on a small number of H-STL-UH238LB harnesses.

Detail - During assurance visits and inspection/checking of harnesses a small number of H-STL-UH238LB harnesses were found to have defective stitching. The defect was found on a non-safety critical part of the harness around the leather waist belt (as shown below), but the harnesses should not have been left in service. They have now been removed from use and the fault is being investigated with the supplier and manufacturer.

Learning Points
Ensure NGED assurance processes are being followed to confirm Personal Fall Protection Equipment (PFPE) is fit for use:
- Prior to use all PFPE shall be checked by the user (ST: HS7A)
- HARN authorised staff shall inspect PFPE before issue (ST: HS7A)
- All PFPE shall be inspected every 3 months by a HARN member of staff (ST: HS7A)
- Checks shall take place as part of SSVs to ensure PFPE is being inspected effectively (ST: HS7A)
- Defective PFPE shall be removed from use, quarantined and reported as a defect (ST: LO1B)

Follow-Up Actions
All users of H-STL-UH238LB harnesses shall before 3rd May 2024, submit their harness to a HARN authorised member of staff for a full 3-monthly inspection (in particular to look for signs of defective stitching). The inspection shall be carried out regardless of when the last formal inspection was completed and it shall be recorded in CROWN. Any defective H-STL-UH238LB harnesses shall be removed from use, quarantined and reported via the equipment defect reporting process.

Intended Audience	Managers, harness inspectors and all staff who may be issued with a full body harness for work at height.
Briefing Type	TM briefing
TBX No	TBX 178
Follow Up Actions	All H-STL-UH238LB harnesses shall be submitted for inspection as soon as possible following the issue of this Safety Bulletin