

## FABRIC SAFETY STRAPS USE

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### 1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the care and maintenance of fabric safety straps and the precautions to be observed in their use.

1.02 This section has been reissued to expand on the safety precautions to be followed by the workman in securing himself aloft with the safety strap and body belt.

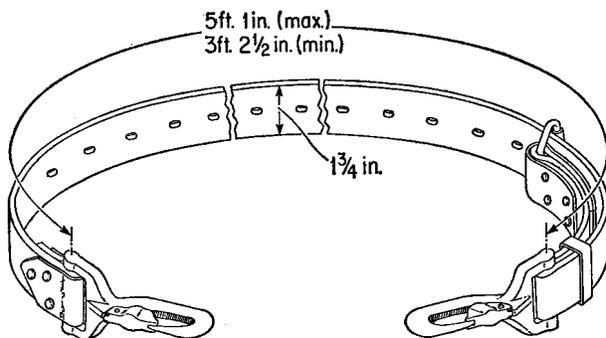
1.03 Information on the B Safety Strap (cotton fabric) has been deleted. Experience with the B Strap has indicated that the wearing quality of the cotton fabric is inferior to that of the nylon fabric used in the C and D Straps. As such, the B Strap was withdrawn from supply some time ago. However, the use and care of the B Straps still in the field shall be the same as for the C and D straps as covered herein.

1.04 The C Safety Strap has been superseded by the D Safety Strap. Better quality strap material, round nose snap hooks instead of pointed nose snap hooks, and increased adjustability of the D Strap make it a more desirable strap.

### 2. C SAFETY STRAP

2.01 The C Strap is a neoprene impregnated nylon fabric strap vulcanized so as to provide a well-bonded multiple ply construction which has no exposed raw edges. The center plies are of a contrasting color (usually red) from that of the outer plies. Exposure of the center plies by wear indicates that the strap should be removed from service.

2.02 The C Strap is equipped with pointed drop forged snap hooks and a tongue-type buckle. It has been issued in only one size but it is adjustable in length in increments of 1-1/2" from 38-1/2" to 61" (see illustration).



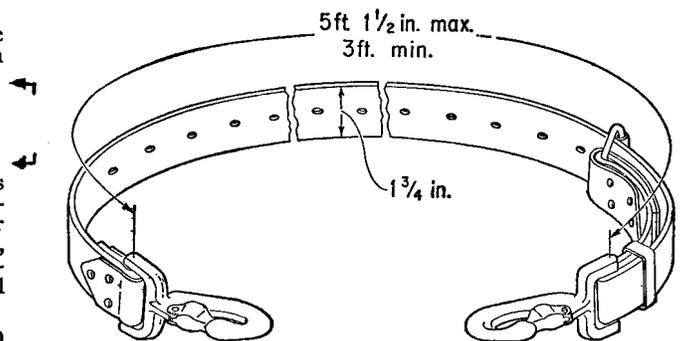
C SAFETY STRAP

### 3. D SAFETY STRAP

3.01 The D Strap is the same as the C Strap except for the following:

- (a) Better quality strap material.
- (b) Round nose duckbill snap hook replaces pointed nose snap hook.
- (c) Adjustability of strap increased by the addition of two buckle holes.

3.02 The D Strap is available in one size only. It is adjustable in length in increments of 1-1/2" from 36" to 61-1/2" (see illustration).



D SAFETY STRAP

### 4. PRECAUTIONS

4.01 A fabric safety strap may be injured seriously and rendered unsafe for use if heavy objects such as trucks, trailers, reels, pole derrick members, or other heavy equipment are allowed to run over or fall on the strap. Care should be exercised to see that this does not occur. If it should occur, the strap should be removed from service immediately and given a thorough examination for defects. The important defects to look for are:

- (a) Broken, cut, or torn outer fibers and
- (b) Broken inner fibers. Defects are usually found in the section at which the injury occurred. Breakage of the inner fibers is indicated by limpness and flexibility of the strap. The strap should be examined in short sections and if a soft, flexible section is found the strap should not be used.

4.02 Before climbing a pole, adjust the length of the safety strap and see that the tongue of the buckle is properly seated in the desired hole in the strap.

- (a) A body belt and safety strap shall be worn at all times when working aloft; e.g., on poles (including stepped poles), cable cars, aerial platforms, truck ladder platforms (when chains are not used) other ladder platforms, and ladders lashed to strand.

4.03 A man working on a pole shall use the following method to secure himself with his body belt and safety strap:

- (a) Attach one snap hook to a Dee ring, pass the free end of the safety strap around the pole so that the strap rests flat against the pole surface without turns or twists, and engage the snap hook in the other Dee ring.

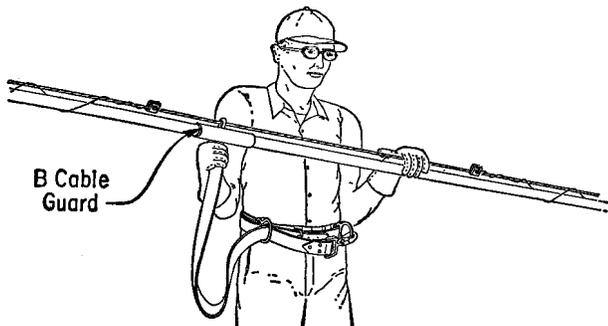
4.04 A workman may improve his security by placing the strap around the pole at a point directly above a cross-arm, strand, pole step, or other secure attachment which is to remain in place while he is on the pole. Do not place a strap around an insulator pin, a bolt, or other insecure attachment. Do not place a strap around a pole within one foot of the top of the pole unless there is a crossarm or cable attachment on the pole above the strap.

(a) Electric light, power and foreign signal circuit attachments shall never be used as supports for the safety strap.

4.05 **Never attach two or more safety straps together for additional length.** If one safety strap can not be lengthened sufficiently to reach around a large tree or other object, the method of doing the work shall be changed. If tree pruning operations are involved, only a rope sling shall be used.

4.06 A man working from a cable car or on an aerial platform or an extension ladder that is securely supported by a suspension strand or other support may use one of the following methods to secure himself with his body belt and safety strap. Attach one snap hook to a Dee ring, and either:

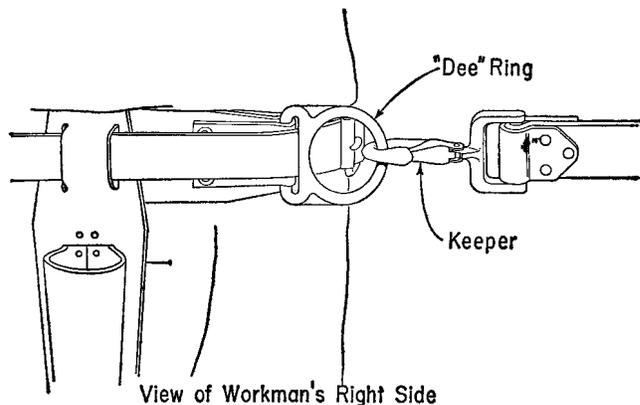
- (a) pass the free end of the safety strap between two rungs and around one side rail, and engage the snap hook in **the other** Dee ring or
- (b) pass the free end of the safety strap around a securely fastened rung and engage the snap hook in **the other** Dee ring, or
- (c) pass the free end of the safety strap over the suspension strand so as to loop the strand and engage the snap hook in **the other** Dee ring, or
- (d) pass the free end across the front of the body, **through the other** Dee ring, and engage the snap hook on the suspension strand. Use this method when working on an aerial, ladder or pole platform (see illustration).



4.07 Where either the snap hook or buckle of the safety strap is likely to contact the cable sheath, provision should be made to protect the sheath from damage. This protection may be provided by slipping a B Cable Guard over the cable or by wrapping the cable with muslin or friction tape at the place of contact.

4.08 A workman shall never secure himself with a safety strap that is placed around a pole, strand, or other support in such a manner that both snap hooks are engaged in the same Dee ring of the body belt.

4.09 **SEE THAT THE SNAP HOOK AND DEE RING ARE PROPERLY ENGAGED. DO NOT RELY ON FEEL OR ON THE CLICK OF THE KEEPER** in the snap hook when attaching a safety strap as an indication that the fastening is secure. The workman shall **LOOK** and **KNOW** that the snap hook is properly engaged before placing his weight on the strap. Always have keeper of snap hook on safety strap away from the body when engaged in the Dee ring, as shown in the following illustration.



4.10 The following are additional precautions:

- (a) **Exercise care when working aloft so that the keeper of the snap hook is not depressed accidentally by contact with wires, strand, crossarm braces, guys, and other attachments, or by crossarms, guard arms, cable cars, etc, that may be supported on the safety strap in the course of performing certain work operations.**
- (b) A safety strap should never be used as a means of riding suspension strand.
- (c) Never use an improvised substitute of rope, wire, etc, for a safety strap.
- (d) Do not punch extra holes in a safety strap.
- (e) While wearing a safety strap which is not in use, both ends of the safety strap should be snapped into the same Dee ring. Care should be exercised to see that the safety strap does not catch on pole steps, and other attachments when climbing poles.
- (f) When climbing past another workman who has his safety strap in place around the pole, exercise care to avoid dragging the climber gaffs over his strap.
- (g) Avoid swinging rapidly around a pole in a safety strap.
- (h) Do not throw or drop a safety strap.
- (i) Exercise care to prevent damage to a safety strap from heat by contact with, or placing it near, a furnace, pot of hot solder, torch, or hot soldering copper.
- (j) Do not stand near a fire while wearing a safety strap or body belt.

## 5. INSPECTION

5.01 Each employee, when receiving a safety strap, and at least once a week thereafter, should inspect the strap in accordance with Paragraph 5.05 so that he may detect any fault that may have developed.

5.02 Each employee should at all times assume the responsibility for determining that his safety strap is in good condition.

5.03 The supervisor should inspect each safety strap periodically.

5.04 The safety strap should be examined visually to determine its condition. If any of the conditions in Paragraph 5.05 are found to exist or if the condition of the strap is such that there is any doubt as to its safety, it should be exchanged at once for one in good condition, in accordance with the Company's established routine. A fabric safety strap should never be subjected to proof load tests.

**5.05 Visual Inspection of Safety Strap:** The important conditions to look for are:

- (a) Worn fabric, as indicated by the colored ply. When two outer layers of fabric are worn through, the red ply can be seen. The strap should be removed from service as soon as a red ply becomes visible.
- (b) Cuts, nicks, punctures, etc, that would affect the strength of the strap. The edges of the strap should be inspected carefully.
- (c) Loose, broken, or missing rivets, or rivets with excessive wear.
- (d) Broken or badly worn steel guard on ends of safety strap.
- (e) Defective buckle, or defective snap hook, and poor action of the keeper on the snap hook. The keeper should work freely without excessive side play, and should close securely under the spring tension.
- (f) Charred spots on the surface of the fabric, such as might have been caused by flames, contacts with hot solder pots, furnaces, hot soldering coppers, heated ducts and pipes. If burns are on the flat surfaces, remove strap from service if two or more outer layers are burned through, or if the colored ply is visible. If these burns are on the edges of the strap and are more than 1/8 inch deep remove strap from service.
- (g) Acid burns. A strap that has been in contact with acid shall be removed from service.
- (h) Holes for tongue of buckle excessively enlarged.

## 6. CLEANING

6.01 Remove any creosote, paint, oil, grease, tar, etc, that may collect on the strap by wiping the strap with a clean, dry cloth. If this does not remove the surface deposit, petroleum spirits or KS-16302 Cleaner should be used on a clean, dry cloth to remove surface deposits. Do not soak the strap, but rub vigorously with the moistened cloth. This cleaning shall be done in a well ventilated location.

6.02 If the strap becomes heavily caked with dried creosote or tar, use a nonalkaline paste type of varnish remover containing paint solvents and paraffin waxes such as "Wonder Paste" to soften the deposit. Daub the paste heavily on the caked spots and allow to remain for, from 15 minutes to one hour, the longer time being required to soften the heavier deposits. The strap should then be wiped with a cloth moistened with trichloroethylene or petroleum spirits. Repeat the operation, if necessary, to remove the deposit.

6.03 No oiling or dressing is required.

## 7. STORING

7.01 The following precautions should be observed when storing the safety strap or when it is not in use:

- (a) Keep strap away from radiators, stoves, steam pipes, fires, and other places where the fabric would be subjected to excessive heat.
- (b) A damp or wet strap should not be packed in lockers, boxes, tool cases, grips, or other containers. The strap should be wiped with a dry cloth and allowed to dry completely by ventilation before storing or packing.
- (c) The safety strap should never be stored with tools unless such tools are equipped with satisfactory guards. When body belts, safety straps and climbers are kept in the same container, the climbers should be fitted with gaff guards to avoid cutting or puncturing the strap with the climber gaffs.
- (d) Store strap in a location free from excessive humidity to prevent mildew.

## 8. DISPOSITION

8.01 A strap with major defects shall be withdrawn from service immediately and returned to the storeroom for handling in accordance with Company's established routine. Such a strap shall be tagged "Dangerous, Do Not Use." If practicable, the strap shall be marked to show the location of any defects that can not be seen readily.