



# Customer Focus on Loss Control

*Innovative Safety and Health Solutions<sup>SM</sup>*

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## Body Belts Prohibited For Construction Fall Arrest Systems

Effective January 1, 1998, the use of body belts for fall arrest is prohibited by OSHA (29 CFR 1926 Subpart M).

After January 1, 1998, for applications that would have required this type of fall arrest, the full body harnesses will be the equipment of choice for the personal fall arrest system.

### **Locking Snaphooks**

Also effective January 1, 1998 is the requirement to use locking snaphooks in the personal fall arrest system.

The locking snaphook has a self-closing, self-locking keeper which remains closed and locked until unlocked and pressed open for connection or disconnection.

The snaphooks are commonly used on the lanyards attached to the rings of the body belt and anchorage points.



**Full Body Harness Now Required**

### **Positioning Devices Still Allowed**

You may see some systems that look like body belts being used. OSHA still allows the use of positioning device systems.

A positioning device may be a body belt or body harness system rigged to allow an employee to be supported on an elevated vertical surface, such as a wall, and work with both hands free.

Locking snaphooks are also required on these systems, effective January 1, 1998.

Additionally, they must be rigged so the employee cannot fall more than two feet.