



GB Instructions for use of RIDGEGEAR Retractable Type Fall Arresters (RTFAs) RGA2/EDGE & RGA3/EDGE
Read and understand before use complying with the requirements of EN 360:2002.
Issue A Jan 2023

IMPORTANT: Please read and understand these instructions before use

This product must only be used by suitably trained personnel who are competent in its safe use. Recommended for personal use.

RTFAs must only be used for their intended purpose, which is to provide fall arrest (EN 360) for a single user only. Do not use for any other purpose. During use the safety line will follow the user during ascent or descent, and in the event of a fall the mechanism will automatically lock, assisted by energy absorbing properties. Thereafter the user will require rescue.

USER INSTRUCTIONS

Before every use, the user must be suitably trained and qualified to carry out a pre-use check to ensure the RTFA is free from defects, and is in a safe condition for use.

Carefully pull out the cable and check for damage or abrasion. (Fig. 1).
Wheels fitted, check fall indicator hook and if red is showing, do not use (Fig. 2).

The pre-use check MUST include the locking mechanism. Slowly check cable extends and retracts correctly (Fig. 3). Do not allow to retract at speed.

Pull cable sharply with a gloved hand to ensure the cable locks correctly (Fig. 4). NEVER use the product if this does not happen.

Ensure that the connector hooks open and close properly.

The housing end should be attached to a suitable anchor point with a minimum strength of 12kN (18kN for textile) and ideally approved to EN 795 with a EN 362 approved compatible connector (Fig. 5). Use an anchor sling as necessary.

The connector at the lanyard end shall be attached to the harness attachment point marked with letter A (Fig. 6).

Check the maximum allowed weight for a user.

Always try to ensure that anchor points are vertically above the user to reduce pendulum effect and the added risk of striking an obstacle. Avoid using where the angle to the vertical is greater than 30 degrees (Fig. 7). The block will function in inclined and horizontal position but should be aware of pendulum effect & that edge contact in the event of a fall is possible.

These RTFAs have also passed the edge tests in accordance with VG11.060 (Fig. 8). The testing is a series of dynamic drop tests using 140g over a sharp smooth steel edge with a radius of 0.5mm, therefore this device may be used over similar edges with a radius less than 0.5mm. A thorough risk assessment is necessary to ensure that the edge is free from rust, burrs, nicks, etc. Consider edge protection if this is identified or unsafe.

Operatives must be aware that if they were to take a fall over an edge, the fall arrest block will arrest the fall of the user, but may cause them to swing back into the structure, causing personal injury. Considerations must be taken to any objects below where they are working that could potentially fall and cause harm (Fig. 9).

Ensure that there is sufficient free space below the feet of the user in the event of a fall. This should be at least 2.5 metres below foot level, or up to 3 metres if using at 30 degree angle (Fig. 10). Add a further 3m if using horizontally or attached at foot level. Always ensure that the RTFA lanyard is taught without slack as a slack cable is potentially dangerous.

GENERAL GUIDE

1. Before use, a detailed risk assessment must be carried out by the employer, to establish that this is the correct product suitable for the type of work to be carried out in the event of a fall, taking into account anchor points, potential fall distance (including pendulum), obstructions, rescue system, etc.

2. Ensure before use there is a suitable rescue plan in place to deal with any emergencies that could arise during the work.

3. The anchor device or anchor point should always be positioned and the work carried out in such a way as to minimise the potential for fall and fall distance.

4. The larger RTFA devices are very heavy so handle with care and do not drop. Do not use RTFAs together.

5. RIDGEGEAR textile lanyard extension straps (e.g. RGL4's) may be used to form a link from the harness to the connector. These are recommended when using wire versions as they assist in rescue by trained personnel.

6. Contact with edges of small radius (0.5mm) must be avoided and edge protection must be considered. Using a block horizontally may damage the wire and/or collar if the wire rubs against the edge of the collar.

7. Not recommended for use with horizontal lifeline.

8. When using the first time, ensure that the first part of the product record card is completed and the date of first use is recorded.

9. Users are warned that certain medical conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, vertigo, epilepsy, drug or alcohol dependence, could affect the safety of the user in normal and emergency use.

10. It is essential to ensure the product is removed from service immediately if the equipment shows excessive wear or damage to any part, or has been involved in a fall. If in doubt, do not use and seek expert advice. The equipment must then be used if confirmed in writing by a competent person that it is safe to do so and contact and strong chemicals, which may damage the components.

11. Never expose the equipment to extremes of temperature outside the range of -25°C to +50°C. Avoid electrical contact and strong chemicals, which may damage the components.

12. IMPORTANT: Never allow the cable to retreat at speed as this could dislodge the locking mechanism. Feed back into unit slowly and use an extension strap if necessary.

13. The use of alternative replacement parts is forbidden.

14. Never attempt to modify, repair or service this product without our written consent. Never attempt to open the casing. Also be warned that the outer screws form part of the internal braking mechanism and should never be tampered with. The consequences could be fatal.

MATERIALS

The wire is either galvanised or stainless steel wire. The outer casing is either carbon steel, aluminium alloy or nylon.

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These RTFAs have also passed the edge tests in accordance with VG11.060 (Fig. 8). The testing is a series of dynamic drop tests using 140g over a sharp smooth steel edge with a radius of 0.5mm, therefore this device may be used over similar edges with a radius less than 0.5mm. A thorough risk assessment is necessary to ensure that the edge is free from rust, burrs, nicks, etc. Consider edge protection if this is identified or unsafe.

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2. Ensure before use there is a suitable rescue plan in place to deal with any emergencies that could arise during the work.

3. The anchor device or anchor point should always be positioned and the work carried out in such a way as to minimise the potential for fall and fall distance.

4. The larger RTFA devices are very heavy so handle with care and do not drop. Do not use RTFAs together.

5. RIDGEGEAR textile lanyard extension straps (e.g. RGL4's) may be used to form a link from the harness to the connector. These are recommended when using wire versions as they assist in rescue by trained personnel.

6. Contact with edges of small radius (0.5mm) must be avoided and edge protection must be considered. Using a block horizontally may damage the wire and/or collar if the wire rubs against the edge of the collar.

7. Not recommended for use with horizontal lifeline.

8. When using the first time, ensure that the first part of the product record card is completed and the date of first use is recorded.

9. Users are warned that certain medical conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, vertigo, epilepsy, drug or alcohol dependence, could affect the safety of the user in normal and emergency use.

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