



Technical Bulletin

No. SRL001, Rev. C

Subject: Self-Retracting Lifelines on Flat Roofs Or Leading Edge Applications

The use of DBI/SALA Self-Retracting Lifelines (SRL's) for fall protection on flat roofs, leading edges, or similar applications where the SRL is not located overhead of the work area is acceptable under most circumstances provided special precautions are taken as described in this bulletin

The following guidelines must be followed when using SRL's in horizontal or near horizontal applications:

1. The SRL should be positioned on it's edge, rather than laid flat, to prevent uneven spooling of the lifeline and to benefit retraction. Special brackets are available to support the SRL for some applications.
2. Swing fall hazards may exist, especially when working near corners, or out away from the SRL. Added fall clearance distances may be required, depending on the swing fall hazard.
3. The total fall distance will be greater than if the SRL were mounted overhead. Therefore, increased clearance distances will be required to prevent striking a lower level or obstruction.
4. A separate in-line energy absorber must be installed between the end of the lifeline and the harness to reduce the arrest forces resulting from falling over an edge. This energy absorber is connected in-line between the harness dorsal d-ring and the SRL's snap hook. DBI/SALA offers a special model energy absorber (part number 1220362) for this purpose that includes a snaphook on one end and a D-ring on the other to ensure compatible connections can be made. **Do not** use energy absorbing lanyards for this purpose. See bulletin SRL002.
5. Sharp edges which the lifeline may contact during a fall could cut or damage the SRL's lifeline. Sharp edges must be avoided or covered over. Falls where the lifeline may slide along a sharp edge must be guarded against.
6. The cable extension speed must reach a speed of approximately 4.5 feet per second, before the brake will engage and a fall stopped. If a person fails to reach a speed of approximately 4.5 feet per second, the SRL will not engage, such as in a sliding fall down a sloped surface.
7. All applicable user instruction manuals should be reviewed and followed.
8. Employee training should be conducted to help assure a safe working environment.

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