

GB Instructions for use of Ridgegear Retractable Type Fall Arresters (RTFA's)

complying (where applicable) with the requirements of EN360:1992, EN360:2002, EN1496:1996 & EN1496:2006. Check the individual product marking for applicable standard and year.

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 issue.

RTFA's must only be used for their intended purpose, which is to provide fall arrest (EN360) and/or rescue (EN1496) 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 internal 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 or webbing and check for damage or abrasion. (Fig 1).

Where fitted, check fall indicator hook and if **red is showing, do not use** (Fig 2). On webbing RTFA, the indicator may be either tear stitch (Fig 3) or absorber webbing (Fig 4). **If it has been deployed, do not use.**

The pre-use check **MUST** include the locking mechanism. Slowly check cable or webbing extends and retracts correctly (Fig 5). Do not allow to retract at speed.

Pull cable or webbing sharply with a gloved hand to ensure the lanyard locks correctly (Fig 6). **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 (ideally approved to EN795) with a EN362 approved compatible connector (Fig 7). Use an anchor sling as necessary.

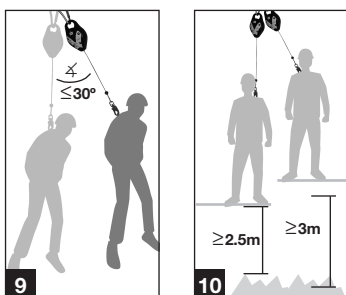
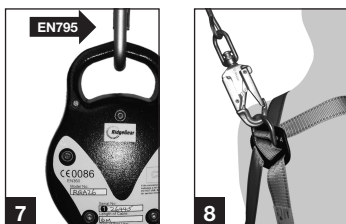
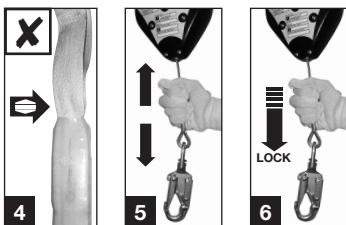
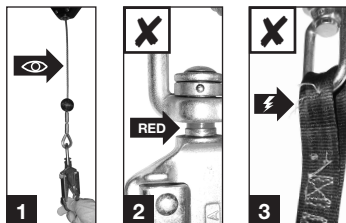
The connector at the lanyard end shall be attached to the harness attachment point marked with letter A (Fig 8).

The chaser range is intended for use with the housing end at the harness attachment point, and the connector at the lanyard end to the anchor point.

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 9). The block will function in inclined and horizontal position but **be aware of pendulum effect & that edge contact in the event of a fall is possible.**

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 used at 30 degree angle (Fig 10). Always ensure that the RTFA lanyard is taught without slack as a slack cable is potentially dangerous.



GENERAL GUIDE

- 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. Ensure before use there is a suitable rescue plan, enabling the retrieval of the user to a place of safety in the event of a fall.
- The larger RTFA devices can be very heavy so handle with care and do not drop. Do not use two RTFA's together, except double chaser range.
- Ridgegear Textile lanyard extension straps (e.g. RGL4's) may be used to form a link from the harness to the RTFA connector. These are recommended when using wire versions as they assist in rescue by trained personnel.
- 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. **Avoid horizontal use. Never use webbing RTFA where edge contact is possible.**
- If using with devices such as horizontal lifeline systems, extra safe distance below may be required to incorporate lifeline deflection. Check all user instructions and/or seek further advice.
- RTFA's fitted with rescue device (e.g. RGA4), may also be fitted to the RGR1 tripod with attachment brackets. Never use these devices for man riding, as the rescue handle is for rescue only. For instructions on how to operate the rescue handle, observe the pictograms on the device. Familiarise yourself with correct operation before use.
- Ensure that only a full body fall arrest/rescue harness is used with this RTFA and suitably CE approved (e.g. EN361 only/EN1497) and the lanyard connectors are compatible with the harness attachment points. Be aware of any possible dangers, which may arise through use of combinations of items of equipment, in which the safe function of any one item is affected by or interferes with the safe function of another.

- When using for the first time, ensure that the first part of the product record card is completed and the date of first use is recorded.
- 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.
- 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 may form part of the internal braking mechanism and must never be tampered with. The consequences could be fatal.**
- 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. In doubt, do not use and seek expert advice. The equipment must then only be used if confirmed in writing by a competent person that it is safe to do so.
- 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. If using offshore try to limit the level of exposure to a minimum. In doubt seek advice.
- Never allow the cable or webbing to retract at speed as this could dislodge the locking mechanism. Feed back into unit slowly and use an extension stop if necessary.

EXPLANATION OF PRODUCT MARKING (where applicable)

RidgeGear	Manufacturer
Model	Product code
Length (where shown)	Cable/Webbing length (mtrs)
Serial No.	Unique traceability number
CE xxxx	Article 11b approving body
EN360 : xxxx	EN standard and year
Pictogram symbol	Warning to read the user instructions
Load indicator symbol	Warning to check no activation
Printed date	Date of manufacturer
Date of first use	Date first put into service
Date of last service	Date last service was carried out
Max. kg symbol	Maximum user weight
User pictograms	Additional user instructions

MATERIALS

The textile lanyard material and sewing thread is either nylon, polyester or UHMWPE. The wire is either galvanised or stainless steel wire. The outer casing is either carbon steel, aluminium alloy or nylon.

STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION & CLEANING

- Ensure that when the RTFA is not in use or during transportation, it is securely and suitably stored in a clean, dry area and away from direct source of heat or sunlight, or any potentially sharp or abrasive objects such as knives or tools.
- If the RTFA gets wet in use allow it to dry naturally. If necessary, fully extract the cable or webbing and allow to dry. It is not recommended to wash this product.
- Wipe off any build-up of dirt and grit and wipe the cover only as necessary.

PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS AND SERVICE

- Before every use, the user shall inspect the equipment following the inspection guidelines below.
- The safety of the user depends upon the continued efficiency and durability of the equipment, therefore an additional thorough periodic inspection is required by an independent competent person familiar with inspecting this type of equipment.
- The frequency of independent examination and inspection must take into account legislation, equipment type, frequency of use and environmental conditions (particularly if used offshore).

RGA1 and chaser range - none serviceable. Inspect as shown below at least every 12 months.

The results and date of the inspection must be recorded. The equipment must be totally replaced after a maximum of 10 years, from the date of manufacture as shown on the product label.

All other RTFA's - Must be serviced at least annually by Ridgegear or Ridgegear approved service agents, or more frequently dependent upon environmental conditions and frequency of use. Never attempt to tamper with or service the product by any other means. There is no lifespan obsolescence, as worn components are replaced as necessary during service.

INSPECTION

Webbing - retract fully from unit and check for cuts, tears, abrasion, scorch marks, burns, chemical attack or severely discoloured patches. Local abrasion, distinct from general wear is often caused by passage of the webbing over sharp and/or abrasive edges, and may cause serious loss of strength. Slight damage to outer fibres may be considered safe, however serious reduction or expansion in width or thickness or serious distortion to the weave pattern should lead to immediate rejection.

Wire Rope - with a gloved hand fully retract and check cable for broken fibres and kinks. Ensure the spliced ferrule and eyelet show no sign of damage. Ensure a red indicator is not visible on the wire at full extraction.

Stitching - check for broken, loose worn or abraded stitches or severely discoloured patches to the stitching.

Outer Casing and Connectors - check the housing and bush guides for cracks, corrosion, distortion, irregular wear and ensure all moving mechanisms operate correctly. Also check the connectors, and where fitted, be sure that any hook load indicators have not deployed.

Product marking - check that the product markings including the serial number are legible. Ensure the date of the last service is shown and has not expired.

Reject the RTFA immediately if any of the above defects are found or if in any doubt. Clearly identify as DO NOT USE.

REPAIR

- This RTFA must not be modified or repaired unless advised by us in writing. Only competent persons authorised by us may carry out any repairs. In doubt contact Ridgegear for further advice.

RECORDS

- When using for the first time, ensure that the first part of the product record card is completed and the date of first use is recorded.
- Ensure that the product is inspected at regular intervals dependent upon frequency of use. Details of all inspections must be recorded in the spaces provided on the record card.
- It is essential for the safety of the user that if the product is resold outside the original Country of destination that the reseller shall provide instructions for use, for maintenance, for periodic examination and for repair in the language of the Country in which the product is to be used.
- Store all records in a safe place.

LIFESPAN

(See periodic examinations and service). Avoiding abrasion, contamination and correct storage will ensure optimum service life.

NOTIFIED BODY

- Article 10 of PPE Directive. Satra Technology Centre, Telford Way, Kettering, NN16 8SD. ID number 0321.
- Article 10 of PPE Directive. National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride G75 0QU. ID number 0320.
- Article 11b of PPE Directive. British Standards Institution, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL. ID number 0086.
- Article 11b of PPE Directive. Satra Technology Centre, Telford Way, Kettering, NN16 8SD. ID number 0321.

RidgeGear Ltd., Nelson Street, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6BB United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1538 384108 Fax: +44 (0)1538 387350 Email: sales@ridgegear.com
www.ridgegear.com

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