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PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT - ROPE ACCESS SYSTEMS - ROPE ADJUSTMENT DEVICES

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Persönliche Absturzschutzausrüstung - Systeme für seilunterstütztes Arbeiten - Seileinstellvorrichtungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 19 July 2006.

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Foreword

This document (EN 12841:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 160 “Protection against falls from a height including working belts”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2007, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2007.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive 89/686/EEC.

For relationship with EU Directive(s), see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

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Introduction

In rope access systems, rope adjustment devices are used in combination with anchor lines, which could be a working line or a safety line, normally made of ropes conforming to type A of EN 1891. Rope adjustment devices are intended to be used to link sit harnesses (in accordance with EN 813) or full body harnesses (in accordance with EN 361) to a working line and a safety line to allow access, egress and changes in the work position, to give support and to protect against falls.

Attention is drawn to the limitations of rope adjustment devices. Type A rope adjustment devices are for use on safety lines to prevent a fall in the event of failure of the working line or its components. However in extreme circumstances, such as failure of the working line or its components during improper use of the system, type A rope adjustment devices may be called upon to prevent or arrest a limited fall. This is reflected in the test requirements. Type B and C rope adjustment devices are for ascending and descending a working line respectively, but also have a fall prevention function. The design of each type may be incorporated into another when, in every case, they should meet the higher requirements of any common or similar test.

In a rope access system, the worker should always be protected by a type A rope adjustment device connected to a safety line and a type B or C rope adjustment device connected to a working line. The two rope adjustment devices with their respective anchor line are all components of the protective system. It is fundamental for the safe use of a rope access system that the worker is always connected to both anchor lines, and that any slack in the anchor lines and connecting lanyards is avoided.