



Use of Dorsal D-Ring Extenders In Leading-Edge Applications

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3M Fall Protection has received a series of inquiries regarding the use of Dorsal D-Ring extenders. Examples of these 3M products are identified as:

3M ID 70007438503 / 3M Product Number 1231117



or

3M ID 70007437612 / 3M Product Number 1385000



These inquiries address the user's specific intent to utilize these D-ring extender products in Leading Edge environments where sharp edges are present.

Current 3M user instructions

<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/1300536O/and-rope-lanyard-instruction-manual-english.pdf> for D-Ring extenders direct to avoid working where the lanyard, subsystem, or other system components will be in contact with, or abrade against unprotected sharp edges. Do not loop the lanyard around small

diameter structural members. If working with this equipment near sharp edges is unavoidable, protection against cutting must be provided by using a heavy pad or other means over the exposed sharp edge.

3M Fall Protection is currently unable to authorize the use of any Dorsal D-Ring extender product to be used with 3M Leading Edge Fall Protection equipment or systems unless the edges are protected against cutting by using a heavy pad or other means over the exposed sharp edge. The addition of a D-ring extension may allow direct contact of the extension materials with the leading edge and interfere with the proper absorption of energy. These extensions have not been tested for leading edge impacts.

If protection of the sharp edge is not possible, it is the recommendation of 3M that workers exposed to leading edge work utilize the “Buddy System” having a co-worker trained in the use of fall protection equipment connect the primary snaphook of the Leading Edge Self-Retracting Lanyard or Energy Absorbing Lanyard directly to the exposed workers dorsal D-Ring located on their full body safety harness. The Dorsal D-Ring extender is not approved for use in this application.

3M Fall Protection is currently reviewing options designed to help support these applications in leading edge environments.

If you have any questions, please contact 3M Fall Protection Technical Services at 800-328-6146.