RIDGEGEAR
Pioneers of height safety

GB Instructions for use of RIDGEGEAR Retractable Type Fall Arresters (RTFAs) RGA4 & RGA4H and rescue lifting device

Read and understand before use
complying with the requirements of EN 360:2023 & EN 1496:2017 Class A.

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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.
RGA4 must only be used for its intended purpose, which is to provide fall arrest (EN 360) and to provide rescue (EN 1496) for a single user only. Do not use for any other purpose. During use the safety line will follow the user during assent 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).

Where 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.**

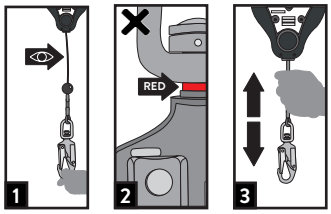
Ensure that the connector hooks open and close properly.

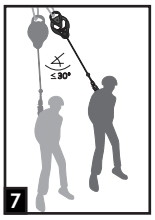
The housing end should be attached to a suitable anchor point with a minimum strength of 12kN (18kN for textile) and ideally approved to EN 795 with a EN 362 approved compatible connector (Fig 5). Use an anchor sling as necessary.

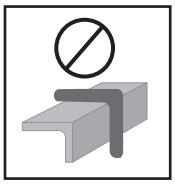
The connector at the lanyard end shall be attached to the harness attachment point marked with letter A (Fig 6).

User weight range: 50kg - 140kg.

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 device must not be used where there is a risk of the self-locking feature not working i.e. inclined surfaces, free flowing solids etc. Always ensure that the RTFA lanyard is taught without slack.







CLEARANCE

The minimum clearance (MC) is the minimum distance required below the feet of a user to prevent them colliding with the ground or other obstacles in the fall path (e.g. crossbeams, girders) in the event of a fall occurring (Fig 8).

Calculate minimum clearance (MC) using the following method:

Minimum clearance (MC) = Vertical displacement due to lateral offset (V) + arrest distance (A) + clearance (C)

MC = V + A + C

(A) Arrest distance: 1.4m
(C) Clearance: 1.0m
(V) Vertical displacement at 0 degrees: 0.0m
(V) Vertical displacement at > 0 degrees < 15 degrees: 0.5m
(V) Vertical displacement at > 15 degrees < 30 degrees: 2.0m

Examples:

At 30 degrees lateral offset (MC) = 2.0 + 1.4 + 1.0 = 4.4m
At 0 degrees lateral offset (MC) = 0.0 + 1.4 + 1.0 = 2.4m

RESCUE FUNCTION

1. During rescue, ensure that the rescuer has direct or indirect visual contact or other means of communication with the rescuee at all times.
2. Never use for lifting or lowering loads and only use for rescue purposes.
3. Activation of the rescue function is shown on the product marking.
4. **RAISING** - Only perform if an unhindered lifting process is possible, and **DO NOT** use if an obstacle presents a hazard. Rescue operations are to be carried out in conjunction with an EN 361 full body harness using the front or rear attachment point, or a suitable rescue solution such as an EN1497 rescue harness using the indicated attachment point(s).

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 and enabling the retrieval of the user to a place of safety in the event of a fall.
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 falls and fall distance.
4. The larger RTFA devices can be very heavy so handle with care and do not drop. Do not use two RTFAs together.
5. Not recommended for use with mobile horizontal lifelines.
6. Ensure that only a full body is used in a fall arrest or rescue system, and suitably CE approved (e.g. EN 361/EN 1497) 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 only be used if confirmed in writing by a competent person that it is safe to do so contact and strong chemicals, which may damage the components.
10. 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.
11. **IMPORTANT: NEVER allow the cable to retract at speed as this could dislodge the locking mechanism. Feed back into unit slowly and use an extension strop if necessary.**
12. The use of alternative replacement parts is forbidden.
13. **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

Wire rope & connector: steel. Casing: Aluminium.

STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION & CLEANING

1. 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.
2. If the RTFA gets wet in use allow it to dry naturally. If necessary, fully extract the cable and allow to dry. It is not recommended to wash this product.
3. 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).

INSPECTION

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.
Metal – 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. Check the function of the rescue device.
Textile Energy Absorber – check for cuts, tears, abrasion, scorch marks, burns, chemical attack or severely discoloured patches. Local abrasion, distinct from general wear is often cause by passage of the energy absorber 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.
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. If in doubt contact RIDGEGEAR for further advice.

RECORDS

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. A copy of the product Declaration of Conformity and product record card can be found at www.ridgegear.com, or by scanning the QR code on the product label.

LIFESPAN

Avoiding abrasion, contamination and correct storage will ensure optimum service life.
The RTFA 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.

NOTIFIED/APPROVED BODIES

1. CE - Module B of PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425. Quintin Certification, 825 route de Romans, 38160 Saint-Antoine-l'Abbaye, France. ID number 2927.
2. CE - Module D of PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425. British Standards Institution, John M Keynesplein 9, 1066 EP Amsterdam, Netherlands. ID number 2797.

EXPLANATION OF PRODUCT MARKING

RIDGEGEAR	*Manufacturer (or customer)*
Model	*Product code*
Length (where shown)	*Cable length (m)*
Serial No.	*Unique traceability number*
CE 2797	*Notified body number*
EN 360:2023/EN 1496:2017 Class A	*EN standards and year*
Pictogram symbol	*Warning to read the user instructions*
Load indicator symbol	*Warning to check no activation*
Printed date	*Date of manufacture*
Date of last service	*Date last service was carried out*
Max kg symbol	*Maximum user weight*
User pictograms	*Additional user instructions*

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