

NET SYSTEM TESTING AND INSPECTION



Inspection

Personnel safety nets must be inspected by a competent person¹ after each installation and not less than once each week thereafter. Additional inspections must be made after alterations, repair, or following any impact loading.

If any welding or cutting operations occur above the safety net, weld protection must be provided for that area, and more frequent inspections should be conducted in proportion to the level of dangers involved.

√ Inspection must include all netting, mesh ropes, perimeter ropes, installation hardware, and suspension systems.

√ Nets or hardware that show deterioration from mildew, wear, or stress, that may affect their strength, must be immediately removed from service for further inspection, repair or disposal.

√ All cabling and fasteners should be checked to assure they are secure.

√ Nets must be checked for debris at least once a day, and all debris must be removed.

Safety Nets should be drawn back against the building or structure and tied off during times of excessive ice, snow or wind loading, and only when not in use.

It is recommended that an up-to-date, on the job record be maintained for each personnel net. The record should include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Net serial number | (5) Repairs |
| (2) Date installed | (6) Dates removed |
| (3) Dates inspected | (7) Disposition & reason |
| (4) Inspection results | |

Factors Affecting Net Life

Sun. Ropes of synthetic fibers can lose significant amount of strength after prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. All nets not in use should be protected from direct and indirect sunlight.

Abrasion. The adverse effects of abrasion should be kept in mind. Nets should not be dragged or allowed to chafe over the ground or other rough surfaces.

Sand. Embedded sand cuts into fibers, reducing the strength of the net. Care should be taken to keep nets as clean and free of sand as possible.

Rust. Prolonged contact with rusting iron or steel can cause abrasive degradation and loss of strength.

Airborne Contaminants. Many chemicals and airborne contaminants can adversely affect the strength of nets. Where such hazards to nets exist, the chemicals should be identified and the concentrations measured, The effect on the net materials should be determined by test, if not already known.

Identification of Nets

Each personnel net is permanently labeled with the following information:

1. Name of manufacturer (InCord)
2. Identification of net material
3. Date of manufacture
4. Date of testing agency
5. Serial number