

Technical Bulletin No 7

Review of Significant Changes to EN 1263-1 2002

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Scope has been changed to limit the performance requirements of the mechanical properties within a specific temperature range, -10°C to +40°C.

Definitions have been extended to include a symbol table to ease understanding, and some definitions have been slightly changed. E.g. Test Rope is now called Test Mesh, and definitions are included for System and Class.

Classification of the various nets and net systems has been changed to avoid the repeated use of the word "Type." The four energy absorption classifications have been named "Class"(Class A1, A2, B1, and B2), and the various application arrangements have been named "System."(System S, T, U, and V). A number of additional specific rope classifications have been added. In the normal UK context the most significant of these is the addition of Rope Z, at 15kN minimum tensile breaking force which is permitted for System S nets when it is independently doubled to the net edge. This idea was introduced from Germany where they like to remotely cut ties from below. Concerns were raised about the reduced abrasion resistance and reduced factor of safety of the lower capacity ties.

Requirements for the nets themselves have been increased to include a test to prevent unraveling. One method of constructing knotless nets permits the breaking of a single thread to unravel the whole net (like a ladder in a pair of tights). The unraveling test has been included to prevent knotless nets with this type of construction being marketed as safety nets meeting this standard.

Test Methods now includes a dimensional inspection to confirm the mesh size. This involves applying a pre-tension and measuring a set of 10 meshes. The "unraveling"test specification is included, and the layout and terminology of the test methods have changed, although the performance requirements have not. There has been some small detail changes in the performance test methods section, however the general requirements are the same.

Marking and Labeling has been re-written with the more emphasis on the detail. The designation "string" must be used to identify the net, and the need for the manufacturers specific "withdraw from service level"test mesh results must also be clearly indicated.

Handling instructions are the same.