

This is a brief summary of the contents of the relevant SANS standard. The intention of the summary is to make easily understandable to product users and management the otherwise complex contents of the standard. Only a selection of content that may be useful to the user or management is included here. A complete copy of the relevant standard can be purchased at www.sabs.co.za

Summary

1. Scope: Specifies material requirements and testing of connectors used as connecting components in fall protection systems, including fall arrest, work positioning, rope access, restraint or rescue systems.
2. Definition of a connector: An open-able device that can be used to connect a fall protection system together, or for a user to attach themselves directly or indirectly to an anchor point.
3. Definition of a self-closing connector: A connector with a self-closing (spring loaded) gate or opening.
4. Definition of a basic connector (class B): A simple self-closing connector used as a component.
5. Definition of a multi-use connector (class M): A self-closing or screw gate connector used as a component loadable in the major axis and minor axis.
6. Definition of a termination connector (class T): A self-closing connector designed in such a way as to allow a sub-system to load in a pre-determined direction. Typically a double action 'snap' hook.
7. Definition of an anchor connector (class A): A self-closing connector designed to link directly to an anchor point. Typically a double action 'scaffolding' hook.
8. Definition of a screw-link connector (class Q): A connector closed by a screw motion gate which is load bearing when fully screwed up. Used for semi-permanent or permanent connections.
9. Connectors may not have sharp edges that risk injury to the user, or may damage webbing or rope components.
10. Connectors (including hooks) must have a mechanism that requires at least two different deliberate actions to open the connector gate.
11. Static strength test for class B connectors: 15kN major axis (gate closed and unlocked); 20kN major axis (gate closed and locked); 7kN minor axis (gate closed).
12. Static strength test for class M connectors: 15kN major axis (gate closed and unlocked); 20kN major axis (gate closed and locked); 15kN minor axis (gate closed).
13. Static strength test for class T connectors: 15kN major axis (gate closed and unlocked); 20kN major axis (gate closed and locked); minor axis (not applicable).
14. Static strength test for class A connectors: 15kN major axis (gate closed and unlocked); 20kN major axis (gate closed and locked); minor axis (not applicable).
15. Static strength test for class Q connectors: 25kN major axis (gate closed and locked); 10kN minor axis (gate closed).

Reference: SANS 50362:2008 Personal protective equipment against falls from a height – Connectors