

Disinfecting Fall Protection Equipment - COVID-19 Concerns

Description

In mid-March 2020, 3M Fall Protection published a frequently asked questions document <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/1815211O/3m-faq-for-disinfecting-fall-protection-equipment.pdf> providing guidance on COVID-19 disinfection concerns of 3M fall protection personal protective equipment.

Since publication, 3M has identified consumer resources and competitive communications that advise and instruct users of fall protection PPE to disinfect their equipment with specific chemicals and cleaning agents. During review of these recommended agents, 3M has identified in the disinfectant instructions for use of many of these agent's state that the agent should not be used on porous materials. Many webbing and stitching elements are extremely porous and when exposed to chemicals found in many disinfectants may degrade and ultimately affect the product's original design and strength requirements.

At 3M, we fully understand users are seeking quick methods of disinfection solutions such as spray or wipe-on types of disinfectants for their PPE. However, 3M is unaware of any disinfectant that has been scientifically proven to both safely disinfect and not degrade the porous synthetic materials often used to manufacture safety harness web straps and shock absorbing lanyards.

In these times of uncertainty, we urge you to seek the support of your PPE manufacturers and suppliers. This should include reading and fully understanding their published product PPE documentation, user instructions and warnings including those warnings associated with their recommended disinfecting and cleaning agents.

3M continues to recommend you follow our guidelines for cleaning your 3M personal fall protection equipment. You may reference our cleaning technical bulletin by visiting <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/13015700/cleaning-of-web-in-personal-fall-protection-products-technical-bulletin.pdf> and the specific product user instruction manual for references.

The CDC also provides guidance on cleaning and disinfection practices in the workplace by visiting <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Additional information is provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). General information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact 3M Fall Protection Technical Services at 800-328-6146 or email at 3Mfallprotectiontech@mmm.com