

BS 7883:2019

BS 7883:2019 enforces the importance of detailed documentation with the introduction of the requirement of comprehensive records and information including system specification, system technical file, examination scheme for inspection and O&M (operations and maintenance) manual.

Detailed Documentation

The System Technical File is to be produced by the system designer and passed on to the duty holder for the life of the system. This file should be made available to anyone carrying out future inspection and maintenance of the anchorage system.

The file should contain records of the system design and layout, design calculations, structural fixing details, information on hidden elements and inspection and test requirements. A record of **hidden elements** is a critical inclusion in the system technical file as these can be overlooked during the inspection. A record of all hidden elements and any material obscuring them should be kept in the system technical file along with installation photographs.

Inspection

Anchor systems are a critical part of personal fall protection equipment. Users of the system must be confident that the device will perform as intended, especially in the event of a fall.

This revised standard has extended inspection requirements to cover inspection prior to use, periodic, interim and supplementary inspections. If information on hidden elements is not present in the system technical file, the inspector should carry out reverse-engineering design checks to confirm the installation is safe to use. Previous versions of the standard left the pass or fail result criteria open to some interpretation. The latest version of the British Standard has addressed this and introduced 4 clear and concise category results as follows:

PASS: Satisfies all relevant recommendations. This allows the equipment to remain in use and labelled as remaining in service.

CONDITIONAL PASS: The anchorage system satisfies the recommendations of BS 7883:2019, a previous standard or code of practice and does not present any immediate safety concern so it should be labelled as remaining in service. However, an inspection report should be presented to the duty holder with recommendations on remedial work should there be a need to improve the anchor device, however there is no requirement to replace the anchor device if it is safe to use.

CONDITIONAL FAIL: This represents an immediate safety concern and requires the anchor system and/or PFPE to be taken out of service and labelled accordingly or decommissioned to prevent use. In these cases, the safety concern can be rectified so the duty holder should be presented with a detailed inspection report including remedial works that must be carried out before the anchor system is re-inspected and returned to service.

This result also applies to systems that may have satisfied a previous standard or code of practice but do not conform to all current recommendations.

FAIL: As the result suggest, this represents an immediate safety concern that the anchor system or device can not be repaired or improved so it should be taken out of service and labelled with "Do Not Use" to avoid any uncertainty. Where possible, the system should be decommissioned to prevent potential use. Permission to physically remove an anchor system or device should be sought from the duty holder

Summary

The latest revision of BS 7883:2019 provides a clear and comprehensive structure to best practice recommendations for those responsible for the design, installation, maintenance, inspection and certification of anchorage systems and devices used for personal fall protection.

Whether you are a manufacturer, distributor, safety professional or service provider, everyone has a duty to ensure the safety of others and should follow the recommendations set out in this updated version of the British Standard.