



## ANCHOR CONNECTORS

A Critical Element to Any Fall Protection System



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**ANCHOR CONNECTOR** is the name given to equipment used that is wrapped around a structure that does not normally accommodate standard connectors. Anchor connectors are critical elements to any fall protection system. Anchor straps, also known as tie-off adaptors, are the most common anchor connectors. These varieties of anchorage connectors are usually made from nylon or polyester webbing with steel D-rings on each end. The majority of industrial anchor straps are arranged in a “choke” configuration by threading the smaller D-ring through the large D-ring and pulling it tight. An assortment of other anchor connectors can be used in a “basket” configuration for specific applications.

Depending on the work environment, careful consideration must be paid to matching the right anchor connector to the job. For example, when working in a harsh or abrasive environment, a cable choker may be the best choice for a welder. A roofer who works on a high-pitched roof may elect to use a standing seam roof anchor. A steel worker may have the need for fixed beam clamps.

In addition to selecting the anchor connector, the anchor point must also be chosen with same level of care. Three main qualities should be examined when choosing the anchor point that will receive the anchorage connector: strength, location and compatibility. Most regulatory agencies require that the anchor point has a capacity of 5,000 lbs. (22.2 kN). Most anchor connectors are rated for loads that meet or exceed this requirement. The location of the anchor point

is also important. An overhead anchor point is usually preferred, because an anchor above the area of work provides greater assurance that the fall protection system will be used in the manner in which it was intended and decreases the risk of having incompatible connections. Finally, compatibility of the anchor connector and anchor point is essential because every anchor point has an ideal anchor connector. Other considerations for choosing an anchor connector are moving, extremely hot, abrasive, sharp, electrical or pipe anchor points.

