

The Gear Check Process: What You Need to Know and Do

What is gear check?

- An opportunity to ensure that the fall protection and other personal protective gear used during a TCC meet industry standards, are fit for the purpose, and are in good working order.
- No one shall operate at height until their gear has been listed on the appropriate forms, assessed by a designated competent person, and has been passed for use.
- Your gear will be checked for applicable industry marks, functionality, and suitability to perform its task. If you have been using the gear already, you should have asked yourself many times the same questions that will be asked at gear check.
- You must provide suitable and sufficient information to the gear check technicians to allow them to make a decision on the suitability of gear that will be used.
- If insufficient information is available, the default decision will be to reject the gear and the climber must present alternative gear if they wish to compete.

How to prepare your gear for gear check

- Do a thorough inspection of your gear prior to departing for the TCC.
- All gear shall be capable of performing its intended task when it is presented at gear check.
- Follow manufacturer instructions regarding lifespan, maintenance, and repairs.
- If you are bringing gear that does not carry an industry mark or may not be well known, it is advisable to bring written technical information from the manufacturer or other reputable source. Gear not recognized by gear technicians or gear without adequate documentation may not be approved for use in the TCC.

What should be presented at gear check?

- List items on the gear check form that you anticipate will be required for the preliminary events **only**.
- You may wish to keep your options open by listing some gear beyond the bare minimum. However, do not create a large 'just in case' list which details the entire contents of your gear inventory.
- Assemble your system(s) in the way you intend to use them when they are submitted for gear check. This allows the assessment of the function of rope adjustment devices and the quality of compatibility between neighboring components.

- Provide information about your gear for precise identification (e.g., the name of the manufacturer and product).
- You may also be asked about your chosen configuration, such as the number of coils and braids in a Valdôtain tresse, or the type of termination you will use on a work-positioning lanyard.

How to complete the gear check form

- Write your name and climber number at the top of all pages of the gear check form.
- The gear check form has three parts:
 - *Systems* - The collection of fall-protection components that connect a harness to an anchor assembly (e.g., work-positioning system, work-positioning lanyard, ascent system)
 - *Assemblies* - A collection of two or more components (e.g., harness, anchor assemblies, rescue quickdraw)
 - *Components* - A constituent element of a system (e.g., carabiner, sling, pulley)
- Complete the unshaded 'Manufacturer', 'Product Name/Description', and 'Configuration/Comments' columns for each section of the form. (*see example below*)
- List any additional gear items not identified on the form in the blanks in the 'Category' column.

Category	Manufacturer	Product Name/ Description	Configuration/Comments
Climbing Line	<i>New England Ropes</i>	<i>Tachyon 11.7mm x 45m; green; polyester</i>	<i>2 terminations and stopper knot</i>

What are the outcomes of the gear check?

- There are four potential outcomes from the assessment of gear listed on the form:
 - *Pass (P)* – gear is suitable for use in the TCC
 - *Quarantine (Q)* – an item is determined to expose the user to excessive risk and cannot be used in the TCC
 - *Resubmit (R)* – the competitor has an opportunity to fix the identified issue and resubmit the piece of gear for inspection
 - *Missing (M)* – a required piece of gear or a component is not present

Legal status of the check

- Gear check at an ISA administered TCC has no legal standing and does not imply a period of safe use for the gear inspected beyond that of the competition.
- Competitors, technicians, and volunteers who pass through the gear check process should continue to assess their gear on a regular basis.