

UPDATE TO STOP USE ADVISORY TO THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY COMPATIBILITY OF POWERED CLIMB ASSIST SYSTEMS WITH CLIMBING LADDER FALL ARREST SYSTEMS

In the interests of worker safety, 3M Fall Protection (3M) notified the industry in December of 2019 that 3M does not permit climb assist systems (CAS) to be used in conjunction with 3M's Climbing Ladder Fall Arrest Systems (CLFAS)¹, unless such CAS are verified by 3M as being compatible with 3M's CLFAS. Absent such verification, 3M urges you to discontinue use of CAS in conjunction with 3M's CLFAS. CAS are accessory systems and are not fall arrest systems.

In order to protect workers from the risk of serious injury or death due to incompatible systems, 3M has continued to work with manufacturers and customers in the wind energy industry to reach agreement and support testing.

Based on lab testing intended to simulate field conditions completed cooperatively with SafeWorks, 3M has determined that, for certain products, when the CAS is used in the ascent, stop, and descent modes, the 3M CLFAS and the SafeWorks IBEX system are compatible. The following product specific model numbers are approved for use in conjunction with one another in the ascent, stop, and descent modes:

- 3M™ DBI-SALA® Lad-Saf X2 (6160030, 6160030B, and 6160047)
- 3M™ DBI-SALA® Lad-Saf X3 and X3+ (6160054 and 6160052)
- 3M™ DBI-SALA® Lad-Saf Vertical Safety Systems
- 3M™ Cable Type (3/8" 7x19 Galvanized Wire Rope per RR-W-410)
- Power Climber Wind IBEX CAS Models 1000 and 1000P with firmware versions 552 and 2.1.12

3M has confirmed compatibility only with the specific products noted above. Compatibility is dependent upon proper installation and maintenance of the CLFAS and CAS, including, without limitation, ensuring proper wire rope tension and proper CAS belt tension per manufacturer's instructions.

At this time, 3M does not have data sufficient to verify the compatibility of 3M's CLFAS with any other non-3M CAS models. In the interests of worker safety, unless a CAS system and the particular mode has been verified by 3M as being compatible with 3M's CLFAS systems, 3M directs you to immediately discontinue use of the non-verified system with 3M's CLFAS. Note that manufacturers and owners of wind towers are responsible to verify compatibility between their CAS and CLFAS systems.

User inquiries about equipment compatibility should be directed to 3M Technical Service at 3MFallProtectionTech@mmm.com.

¹ Specifically, this Stop Use Advisory applies to 3M's DBI-SALA® Lad-Saf™ and Cabloc™ vertical lifeline fall arrest systems (including Lad-Saf, Lad-Saf X2, Lad-Saf X3, Lad-Saf X3+ and Cabloc/Cabloc Pro sleeves, as well as any DBI-SALA, Protecta or Uniline branded climbing fall arrest system).