



## Distinguishing Rope Access from Rope Descent Systems

The following checklist may be used to help distinguish a typical rope access system from a typical rope descent system. Answers in the affirmative are more likely to be part of a rope access system; however, due to the variability of application, a 'No' answer does not preclude the work being conducted from being rope access. Similarly, 'No' answers do not connote that the work being conducted is inherently unsafe.

The checklist is divided into three components:

- 1) Questions that can be answered from a distance
- 2) Questions that can be answered only with close inspection of equipment
- 3) Questions that can be answered only with close inspection of the service provider's documentation.

### 1. Inspection from a distance

Is the worker wearing a helmet with a chinstrap?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is a full body harness being worn?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are two ropes in use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the backup device connected to the front of the harness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the backup device at or above the connection to the harness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the lanyard between the worker and the backup device shorter than an arm's length?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can the worker move the backup device without grabbing the device itself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are two hands used to operate the descender? (i.e., one hand on rope below descender, one hand on descender)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the worker stop from descending automatically if they release control of their equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### 2. Close inspection of Equipment

Is the helmet designed for work at height and include certification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the harness designed for suspended work at height?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the ropes of the same construction type?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the backup device compliant with at least one of the following standards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
o ANSI Z359.15 (2014)	
o CSA Z259.2.5 (2012)	
o EN 353 -2 (2002)	
o EN 12841 (2006) Type A	
Is there a direct connection from the harness to the descender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If a lanyard is used to connect the harness to the descender, is it adjustable and taut?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the descender compliant with at least one of the following standards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
o CSA Z259.2.3 (2010)	
o EN 341 (2011)	
o EN 12841 (2006) Type C	
o ISO 22159	

### 3. Supporting Documentation

Are all workers currently certified rope access technicians?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supervision in accordance with <i>Safe Practices for Rope Access Work?</i> (Refer to <a href="#">Supervisor Checklist</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access work plan in accordance with <i>Safe Practices for Rope Access Work?</i> (Refer to <a href="#">Access Work Plan Checklist</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No