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# Technical Bulletin

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## ***Subject: Use of Self-Retracting Lifelines in Aerial Work Platforms***

The use of DBI/SALA Self-Retracting Lifelines (SRL's) for fall protection while working in aerial work platforms is permissible provided the criteria contained in this bulletin is adhered to. SRL generally will not restrain a user from falling out of the platform. If restraining the user from falling out of the platform is necessary, a correct length positioning lanyard should be used.

The following guidelines must be followed when using SRL's in aerial work platforms.

1. The aerial work platform must have a guardrail system and a closable gate around its perimeter unless the anchorage level for the SRL is overhead. A suitably designed anchorage must be available for each SRL as part of the platform.
2. Swing fall hazards may exist, especially when working near corners, or out away from the SRL. Added fall clearance may be required, depending on the swing fall hazard.
3. For situations where the SRL is mounted below shoulder height, SRL models that incorporate an external energy absorber are highly recommended to reduce the risk of damaging the lifeline should a fall occur over the guardrail. SRL models that do not incorporate an external energy absorber can be used if a separate in-line energy absorber is installed between the end of the lifeline and the harness. This energy absorber is connected in-line between the harness dorsal d-ring and the SRL's snap hook. DBI/SALA offers a special model energy absorber (part number 1220362) for this purpose that includes a snaphook on one end and a D-ring on the other to ensure compatible connections can be made. **Do not** use energy absorbing lanyards for this purpose. See bulletin SRL002.
4. Sharp edges which the lifeline may contact during a fall could cut or damage the SRL's lifeline. Sharp edges must be avoided or covered over. Falls where the lifeline may slide along a sharp edge must be guarded against.
5. The lifeline extension speed of the SRL must reach a speed of approximately 4.5 feet per second, before the brake will engage and stop a fall. If a user fails to reach a speed of approximately 4.5 feet per second, the SRL will not engage, such as in a sliding fall down a sloped surface.
6. All applicable user instruction manuals should be reviewed and followed.
7. Employee training should be conducted to help assure a safe working environment.