

Understanding Class A and Class B Self-Retracting Devices

ANSI Classifications of SRDs

Class A: Maximum arresting distance up to 24 inches. Average arresting force not to exceed 1,350 lbs.

Class B: Maximum arresting distance up to 54 inches. Average arresting force not to exceed 900 lbs.

These classifications have been developed to address applications where fall clearance may be reduced or limited for which a Class A device would be more appropriate.

Leading Edge Self-Retracting Devices: SRD's intended for use in leading edge applications shall be required to meet specific testing criteria and be identified by the manufacturer as being rated for the application.

Visual Load Indicator: SRD's are required to include a visual load impact indicator. The load indicator should be visible to the user at full extension of the line prior to use. Devices may incorporate load indicators near the SRD snap hook or housing. Integral energy absorbers may also be utilized as visual load indicators.

ANSI Z359.14 – Key points

- M.A.D. Class A: 24" Maximum, Average Force 1,350 lbs.
- M.A.D. Class B: 54" Maximum, Average Force 900 lbs.
- Load Impact Indicator Required
- Leading Edge Labeling (LE) if applicable.

Fall Arrest Clearance Distance–From Walking/Working Surface

The following chart demonstrates the fall clearance requirement differences for Class A and Class B retractables, and energy absorbing lanyards. Per OSHA maximum recommendation anchor points are above the worker's dorsal D-ring attachment point and the worker is positioned <30° from the SRD.

