

7.7.10, 7.7.11, 7.7.15 - CHALLENGE COURSE EQUIPMENT

These standards have to do with the use, reporting, and replacement of Challenge Course Equipment.

7.7.10 "Camps with a challenge course must use climbing equipment that meets ACCT standards and perform an inspection of wear prior to each use. Equipment must be professionally inspected annually in accordance with ACCT standards."

7.7.11 "Camps must document the purchase dates and inspection checks for all equipment used during each program activity. The camps must keep these inspections in a log or record for the life of the equipment."

7.7.15 "Camps with challenge courses must replace all ropes, slings, prussic cords, accessory cords, belay devices, harnesses, carabiners, and other equipment according to the manufacturer's recommendations or condition, whichever comes first."

If you run a challenge course program, it is important that you keep track of the manufacture dates, in use dates, inspection checks and condition of all life-safety equipment.

Please note that 7.7.15 was changed in 2022 from a previous standard which required these items to be replaced every 5 years (even if the manufacturer recommended a longer life-span). If you are unsure of the manufacturer's recommendations, you can find many by google search, or check the manual that came with your equipment upon purchase.

For example, Black Diamond says "Polymer-based PPE (ropes, harnesses, slings, helmets...) must be replaced after 10 years no matter how they are used. But inspection before every use should be made and can lead to replacement of the equipment after a shorter time. Metal-based PPE have different shelf life which is always indicated on the instruction manual."

- https://www.blackdiamondequipment.com/en_EU/content/product-faq/

and Petzl says "For plastic or textile products, the maximum lifetime is ten years from the date of manufacture. The lifespan of metal products is not limited."

- <https://www.petzl.com/CA/en/Sport/FAQ/what-is-the-lifetime-of-my-petzl-equipment>



ALBERTA CAMPING
ASSOCIATION

Bringing Alberta Camps Together