



VHS UNI HARNESS **Universal Harness V2**
Specialty Harness



FERNO[®]



Users' Instructions

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SAFETY INFORMATION

Ferno Customer Service

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SAFETY INFORMATION



WARNING

Warning safety alerts indicate a potentially hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in injury or death.

NOTICE

Notices emphasise important, but not hazard-related information. Failure to follow Notices could result in product or property damage.

GLOSSARY

Competent Person

A person designated by their employer who through training and knowledge, is capable of identifying defects, evaluating and addressing existing and potential hazards, and who has authority to take corrective action with regards to such hazards.

Main Line

The primary line supporting the load

Operator

The person fitting the harness to the participant.







Participant

The person who will be wearing and using the harness.

Safety / Belay / Backup Line

A secondary rope or system used to support the load should the Main Line fail.

Label Markings

-  Serial Number
-  Batch Number
-  Date of Manufacture
-  Manufacturer
-  Expiry Date
-  Read Instructions

PRODUCT LIFE EXPECTANCY

The maximum life of the harness is ten years from the date of manufacture. The actual life of the harness will be influenced by many factors including, but not limited to, frequency and intensity of use, environment, weather, storage conditions and exposure to damaging chemicals.

If in doubt, tag it out!

HARNESS IDENTIFICATION LABEL

Each harness should have a label sewn to the outside rear of the harness, that identifies the harness model, harness serial number, manufacturing batch plus dates of manufacture and retirement.



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ABOUT THE UNIVERSAL HARNESS

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The Universal Harness is a specialised sling harness designed to support the wearer's weight in a seated position, enabling people with limited mobility to participate in recreational at-height activities such as zip lines and giant swings.

The Universal Harness features an internal harness to secure the participant, while a system of outer straps and fabric forms around them like a seated hammock.

The Ferno Universal Harness does not require the participant to support their own body weight.

Harness Designation	Specialty recreational harness for participants with reduced mobility
Model Code	VHI UNI HARNESS
General Use	Safety at height
Suggested Applications	Recreational; Giant Swing; Flying Fox (Zip Line)
Harness Weight	4.5 kg
Max. Load Capacity	150 kg



Universal Harness Components

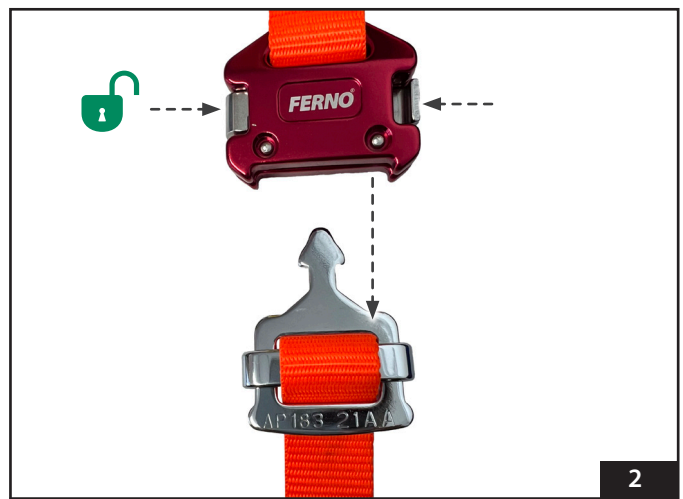
#	Description	Qty
1	Outer harness strap - Head Rest (Red)	2
2	Outer harness strap - Upper Back	2
3	Outer harness strap - Lower Back	2
4	Outer harness strap - Leg (Orange)	1
5	Attachment point to lifting system	1
6	Spreader bar	1
7	Grab Handles for participant's use	2
8	Head rest (fitted with hook & loop tape for for head block if needed)	1
9	Buckle cover	8
10	Internal harness - shoulder strap	2
11	Internal harness - chest strap (marked A + B)	2
12	Internal harness - hip strap (marked C + D)	2
13	Internal harness - groin strap (marked E)	1



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

NOTICE

- **EMPLOYERS:** It is your responsibility to ensure all users are instructed and trained in the correct use and maintenance of this harness. Once the harness is issued, it is assumed appropriate training has been completed.
- **OPERATORS:** You must be competent in the use of equipment before beginning any tasks requiring its use. It is your responsibility to read and understand these instructions. Always use equipment safely and properly. Check equipment before and after each use.
- **GENERAL:** This document contains general fitting instructions and are not all inclusive. Modifying the harness can cause injury and damage and will nullify any warranty and place full responsibility for any accident or injury on the equipment owner.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Restraint Buckles

The harness is equipped with quick connect buckles.

To connect a buckle:

1. Insert the tang (male part) into the receiving (female) part of the buckle (Fig. 1A).
2. Push together to engage the locking mechanism which will give an audible click when locking (Fig. 1B).

To release the buckle:

1. Depress both release catches simultaneously (Fig. 2) while simultaneously pulling the tang away from the female part of the buckle.

Buckle Covers / Shrouds

The external harness straps are equipped with buckle covers to prevent unintentional release of buckles while the harness is in use.

Always cover buckles before deploying the harness.

BEFORE EACH USE

Operator Inspection

The Universal Harness should be inspected by a competent person before and after each use to ensure all parts of the harness are functioning correctly and free of damage.

Check all webbing, thread and metal components for excessive wear or damage. An Inspection Checklist is provided as a guide, which may be used in conjunction with your approved organisation's protocols.

Refer any signs of deterioration to an authorised, competent person for a decision on the safety and serviceability of the Universal Harness. **If in doubt, tag it out!**

PREPARING THE HARNESS

For ambulant participants

Participants who will move to, and sit on the harness to be strapped in.

- 1. Lay the Universal Harness over a chair**
 - Ensure black internal harness is facing up.
 - Place the spreader bar over the back of the chair, **or**
 - Attach the lifting rope via a karabiner onto the metal attachment point (Fig. 4).
- 2. Undo the orange leg straps**
 - Release the orange coloured restraint buckles (Fig. 5).
 - If greater access is necessary, also undo the black lower back and blue upper back straps.
- 3. Undo the inner harness and move it out of the way**
 - Unbuckle all the quick-release buckles on the black internal harness, labeled A, B, C, D, and E.
 - Loosen the remaining two shoulder straps
 - Lay the opened harness straps over the back of the chair to clear space for the participant to sit comfortably.

The participant can now sit on the harness on the chair.

For non-ambulant participants

If a participant in a wheelchair wishes to be lifted from their chair to avoid additional transfers.

- 1. Separate the spreader bar assembly from the seat assembly of the Universal Harness**
 - Unbuckle the orange, black, blue and red-coloured outer straps.
- 2. Undo the inner harness and move it out of the way**
 - Unbuckle all the quick-release buckles on the black internal harness, labelled A, B, C, D, and E.
 - Loosen the remaining two shoulder straps.
 - Flip the shoulder strap assembly over the back, keeping it out of the way.
- 3. Position the participant on the harness**
 - Gradually slide the harness from the side of the participant, under their body.
 - Follow organisational protocols for assisting participants.



SECURING THE HARNESS

Once the participant is sitting on the harness:

- 1. Connect the spreader bar to the lifting rope if not completed earlier (Fig 6).**
 - Ensure the seat assembly portion of the harness is connected to the spreader bar assembly.
 - Connect the seat assembly's black, blue and red-coloured outer straps to the corresponding buckles on the spreader bar assembly.
 - Ensure the spreader bar is lifted high enough to provide sufficient clearance above the participant's head.
- 2. Secure the internal harness (Fig 7).**
 - Bring the black shoulder strap assembly over the participant's head and position it on their chest.
 - Connect the black inner harness straps with their corresponding buckles: A to A, B to B, C to C, D to D, and E to E.
 - Adjust the inner harness so that the straps are even against the body, but do not over-tighten.
- 3. Protect the participant's head.**
 - Place protective headwear on the participant.
 - If required, a head block may be attached to the head rest.
- 4. Connect the leg straps (Fig 8 & 9).**
 - Pull the orange leg straps on the seat assembly up between the participant's legs and connect to the corresponding buckles on the spreader bar assembly.
 - Use a karabiner to pull the two leg straps closer together, providing increased comfort to the participant by holding their legs in a more neutral position.
- 5. Adjust the harness for participant comfort**
 - Shorten or lengthen the red, black, and blue outer straps to adjust the participant's seating position.
 - Adjust the orange leg straps as required.
 - The participant can use the two grab handles on the spreader bar to adjust their body position once suspended.
- 6. Cover all outer strap buckles with the buckle shrouds.**

The participant is now safely secured into the harness and ready to be lifted following organisational rigging and safety protocols.



REMOVING THE HARNESS

To remove the participant from the harness:

1. Lower the participant to a chair, or their wheelchair.
2. Follow the previous instructions in reverse.

INSPECTING THE HARNESS

To maintain the safety and serviceability of this product, the following inspections must be performed.

Operator Inspection

The harness should be inspected by the Operator before and after each use to ensure all parts of the harness are functioning correctly and free of damage. Refer any signs of deterioration to an authorised, competent person for a decision on the safety and serviceability of the Universal Harness.

Periodic Inspection

A full periodic inspection shall be conducted at least every six months by a competent person, or more often depending upon frequency of use or local protocols. Use the provided checklist on page 8 in conjunction with your approved organisational protocols.

Record periodic inspections in the product's Inspection and Maintenance Log. A sample log is provided in these instructions on page 8.

MAINTENANCE

Clean the product regularly to maintain its condition and serviceability.

1. After Each Use

After each use, wipe down the product to remove any dust or dirt. If there is any sign of contaminants such as oil, grease, paint, etc. tag the product as unfit for use and refer it to a competent person for inspection.

2. During Periodic Inspection

Hand wash the product with Ferno Rope and Harness Wash every alternate periodic inspection (ie. every twelve months) depending on frequency of harness use.

Hang the product in a sheltered, shaded area away from direct heat to dry completely.

- DO NOT machine wash
- DO NOT tumble dry.

Refer to Ferno Australia for advice on removing difficult stains.

STORAGE

Store the product in a well ventilated environment, away from direct sunlight and protected from dust, moisture and corrosive atmospheres.

Inspection Check List / Periodic Inspection and Maintenance Log

Supplier				
Product Info	Ferno Universal Harness (V2)	Model #: VHI UNI HARNESS		
Serial #		Date of Manufacture		
Batch #		Date of Purchase		
Date of First Use		Date of Last Inspection		
Inspection Check List			Condition	
		PASS	MONITOR	FAIL
WEBBING	Are there cuts or tears in webbing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Is there abrasion damage, especially where there is contact with hardware?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are there any signs of excessive stretching?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are there signs of damage due to heat, corrosives or solvents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Is there deterioration due to rotting, mildew or ultraviolet exposure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O-RINGS	Are there cracks, distortion or other physical damage to the O-ring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are there any burrs present on the O-ring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKLES & ADJUSTERS	Do the male and female parts of quick connect buckles lock smoothly and securely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do the buckles release smoothly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are there any signs of distortion, physical damage, cracks or sharp burrs on buckles and adjusters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKLE COVERS	Are all buckle covers present? There is one each per outer harness strap buckle (8 total).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do covers remain over buckles when placed there?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEWING	Are there any broken, cut or worn threads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are there signs of damage or weakening of thread due to contact with heat, corrosives solvents or mildew?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEATING FABRIC	Is the harness fabric soiled with body fluids, grease, dirt etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Is fabric intact and free from tears and large holes? (Some wear and tear is acceptable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Inspection:		Next Inspection Due Date:		
Result of Inspection: <input type="radio"/> Pass <input type="radio"/> Keep Monitoring the Harness <input type="radio"/> Fail				
Comments / Action Taken:				
Inspected by (Print Name)			Signature:	