

# BUCKINGHAM MFG.

## 5201 Series RETRACTABLE LIFELINES INSTRUCTIONS / WARNINGS

Warning: Do not use this product if you cannot understand and follow the instructions and warnings that come with it and complete all necessary functions.

The 5201- Series, Portable, Retractable Lifeline Devices are designed for use as part of a complete fall-arrest system as required by OSHA. Their portability and deceleration features are designed for use in conjunction with a full-body harness whenever fall-arrest protection is needed.

Under normal working conditions, the worker can draw the cable in and out of the unit housing as desired. The unit's self-retracting feature keeps the lifeline taut and out of the worker's way during use and recoils the lifeline when disconnected from the worker. The unit's centrifugal brake will not engage as long as the unit is NOT under load. In the event of a fall, however, the braking system brings the worker to a decelerated stop and holds him in place.

Each unit's cable has a permanently attached, locking swivel snap hook which must be attached to the rear fall-arrest D-ring of the worker's full body harness. The lifeline itself is made of 3/16" diameter rope or aircraft cable and is available in various lengths (25' to 100'), each corresponding to a different unit catalog number.

The unit's housing is weather-sealed.

Individuals who use this Portable, Retractable Lifeline Device must be instructed on how to use the system correctly. They must also read, understand and follow all instructions and warnings contained in this instruction manual and any warnings or instructions attached to the product before each use.

### INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

**⚠WARNING - NEVER** use this lifeline device without a thorough inspection before each use.

1. Inspect the work area and clear all debris and other material that could cause injuries or interfere with the operation of the device. Make sure the lifeline is clear of any electrical lines or other energized sources at all times.
2. Attach the unit using an approved connector through the anchor mounting bracket and to an approved anchor source suitable for fall-arrest as defined in the current OSHA regulations. The anchorage must be capable of supporting 5,000 lbf. (22.2kN) per attached worker and be independent of worker support. This device is designed for use with one person only. Never use this device to support multiple workers. Also, **DO NOT** use this unit if the total workload will exceed 350 lbs. (158.76 kg).
3. Ensure device is installed directly over work area and hangs vertically to avoid swing-fall injuries. Worker must be vertically in line with device. Make sure enough clearance exists in the worker's fall path to prevent striking an object in the event of a fall. A minimum of 3 feet is required.
4. NEVER work above anchor point as increased free fall distance results.

## INSPECTION PROCEDURES

1. Inspect the work area and ensure the vicinity around work areas is clear of debris and other material that could cause injuries or interfere with the operation of the unit. Ensure the unit is attached to a 5,000 lbf (22.2 kN) rated anchor point per attached worker.

**ΔNOTE:** Gloves should be worn when inspecting or handling cable.

2. Prior to each use inspect entire length of cable by pulling out in 2 to 4 foot intervals and then giving the cable a quick, hard, downward tug. The cable should stop and lock. Upon completion of inspection, allow cable to retract back into housing slowly while under slight tension. While the cable is retracting, inspect to ensure no cuts, kinks, broken strands, excessive wear, foreign substances or other damage exist. A competent person, for example, a safety director, must schedule regular safety inspections based on amount of use and working conditions.
3. Inspect the snap hooks and connecting hardware to be sure they are not distorted or cracked. Be certain snap hook keepers are free of burrs, functioning properly, clean and not bent. Also, inspect the retractable unit housing to ensure no distortion, cracks, loose screws or other damage exist. Ensure that all connecting hardware is properly fastened and is secure.
4. Make sure stopper is clean and free of cuts and cracks.
5. If any evidence of wear or deterioration as outlined is observed, immediately cease use, Should any unusual conditions not outlined above be observed or you have reasonable doubt about a particular condition, remove the equipment from service and notify your Supervisor, Safety Director, or contact Buckingham Mfg. Co. for clarification.
6. Remove immediately from service, destroy and replace with new equipment should any system function, component or part not pass this inspection. As an alternative, return the unit for inspection, rework and recertification to:

Buckingham Mfg. Co., Inc.  
1-11 Travis Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13904  
Questions: (800) 937- 2825

7. Both OSHA and ANSI require an inspection by the user before each use and ANSI also requires an additional inspection by a Competent Person other than the user at an interval of no more than one year.

**NOTE :** *Product must be returned at least annually for complete inspection.*

## OPERATION PROCEDURES

1. Complete all instructions listed in the “Inspection Procedures” section.
2. Attach the locking swivel snap hook of the retractable lifeline cable to the rear fall arrest D-ring of the worker’s OSHA compliant full body harness. Always visually check that the locking swivel snap hook freely engages the D-ring and the keeper is completely closed with each use. Never rely solely on the feel or sound of a snap hook engaging.
3. The worker can now move to his/her work position. When properly used, this retractable lifeline device affords the user the fall-arrest protection required by OSHA. Remember, this device only provides fall arrest protection.
4. Always allow cable to slowly retract back into housing. If unit is mounted out of reach, always attach a tag line.
5. See attached product labels for additional information.

## STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

1. A written log of all servicing and inspection dates for this device should be maintained by the company safety officer or other competent individual.
2. DO NOT leave this unit for extended periods of time in an environment, such as a sewage or fertilizer plant, where corrosion may take place. Avoid use with acids, alkaloids or other caustic chemicals, especially at elevated temperatures. Additionally, avoid use in areas that contain high concentrations of ammonia. When used near sea water or other similar environments, more frequent inspections may be necessary to monitor potential corrosive damage.
3. Clean the exterior of the case as well as the retractable cable with water and mild soap/detergent, rinse with water and let thoroughly air dry. DO NOT use harsh chemicals. Clean labels as required.
4. **NEVER ATTEMPT TO LUBRICATE, ADJUST, REPAIR OR MODIFY ANY PART OR COMPONENT OF THIS DEVICE.** Repair or re-certification MUST BE performed by the Buckingham Service Center at least annually, or more frequently, depending on the device's use, operating conditions, or whenever subjected to a severe free fall. Return the device and component(s) to:

Buckingham Mfg. Co., Inc.  
1-11 Travis Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13904
5. See the maintenance label for the next required annual inspection date by the Buckingham Service Center.

## ΔWARNINGS

- Read, understand and follow all instructions and warnings, attached to and/or packed with this unit before each use.
- Improper use of this equipment could result in serious injury or death.
- Inspect and test before each use to ensure unit operates properly (all occupational protection equipment must be inspected and thoroughly tested before each use). The entire device should be removed from service if any part/component shows damage, excessive wear or does not function properly.
- This product is intended for use by properly trained personnel only.
- Please consult with your physician prior to using this product. Do not use this product under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Fall protection equipment, (i.e. fall arrest, work positioning belts, retrieval, suspension etc.) should not be resold or provided to others for re-use after use by original user.
- Never use any occupational protective equipment for other than its intended use.
- DO NOT use this device near live electrical lines and other energized sources.

- This device must be attached to a fall-arrest anchorage capable of supporting 5,000 lbf (22.2kN) per attached worker and be independent of worker support. Always use locking type connectors for attachment to anchorage.
- DO NOT use this unit if the total working load exceeds 350 lbs. (158.76 kg).
- This device is NOT to be used for towing or lifting.
- Always use an OSHA compliant full body harness with this unit.
- This unit is NOT intended to be used for suspension.
- DO NOT use this device if the brake does not function when tested.
- DO NOT use this device if the cable does not retract.
- The cable must be kept clean and free of foreign matter.
- DO NOT use if the cable has cuts, kinks, abrasions, broken strands or excessive wear.
- Avoid prolonged use in caustic or corrosive environments.
- Always work directly under the anchorage. The worker must be vertically in line with this device to avoid swing-fall injuries (pendulum effect).
- Make sure the anchorage and connecting devices are compatible before each use.
- Always use locking carabiners and locking snap hooks.
- Always wear gloves when inspecting and handling cable.
- Only attach the swivel locking snap hook of this unit to the rear fall-arrest D-ring of the OSHA compliant full body harness.
- Never rely on the feel or sound of a snap hook engaging.
- Always visually check that;
  - 1) the locking snap hook freely engages D-ring.
  - 2) the keeper is completely closed with each use.
- Never join two hooks together. They are NOT intended for that use and may twist apart.
- Never allow cable to retract uncontrollably. Always use a tag line to allow slow return of the cable to housing.
- Never cross the lifeline of another worker.
- Never allow the cable of this unit to pass under or get wrapped around the legs, arms, neck or torso of the user or other workers.
- Never clamp off or stand on the cable nor allow the cable to become slack when in use.
- For use with one person only. Never use this device to support multiple workers.
- To ensure proper clearance in a fall, rig to allow a minimum of 3 ft. (.9m) clearance to objects below.
- Never extend cable length by attaching extension lanyard. Use correct length for job.

- The braking action of this fall-arrest device requires a minimum speed to engage.
- Fall-arrest function will NOT operate if footing is on loose or sliding material such as sand or grain.
- Never work above your anchorage, increased fall distance will result.
- Never allow cable to pass over sharp edges which could damage the cable.
- DO NOT lubricate, adjust, repair or modify any part of this device. All repairs must be made through:
- Components must be inspected by a competent person.
- Retractable lifeline devices must be returned to Buckingham for inspection and recertification at least annually, or more frequently, depending on the device's use, operating conditions, or whenever subjected to a severe free fall.
- DO NOT use this device if any instruction or warning is not fully understood. Telephone Buckingham Sales Department at (800) 937-2825 for clarification.
- Product covered under these instructions / warnings should not be resold / redistributed or re-used after use by original user.
- Employer - instruct employee as to proper use and warnings before use of equipment.

**NOTE:** Ensure proper size of product before use. This product can not be returned unless it is in new / unused condition.

#### STATEMENT of OBSOLESCENCE:

Precise "useful life expectancy" or "shelf life" for this product is not specified, as the degree of use, conditions of use, and the degree of care and storage determines useful life. All users maintain responsibility to select proper equipment for the job, be properly trained in its use, and ensure all personnel support equipment passes inspection before each use. Upon evidence of defects, damage or deterioration, all equipment shall be removed from service immediately and tagged or marked as unusable or destroyed. Additionally, all equipment shall be inspected on a regular basis not to exceed one year by a Competent Person, as defined by OSHA/ANSI, to verify that the equipment is safe for use. In the event of any question or concern regarding the condition of such equipment, users shall remove the equipment from service for further inspection. All users must comply with OSHA/ANSI/ASTM standards prior to and in using such equipment. For more information regarding safe and appropriate use of equipment, please contact Buckingham Manufacturing at 1-800-937-2825.

#### INTERNATIONAL USERS:

Notwithstanding the above, please know that certain international jurisdictions require manufacturers of equipment to provide customers with a maximum useful lifespan (sometimes referred to as a "Statement of Obsolescence"). To the extent required, Buckingham personal protective equipment manufactured from synthetic fiber materials including but not limited to items such as webbing and/or rope are subject to a maximum useful lifespan of ten (10) years from the date of manufacture. As stated above proper usage, storage, maintenance, and care impacts the useful lifespan of equipment. Extreme circumstances may require that product must be retired after only one use. This statement is made in conformance and compliance with BS EN 365:2004. International users must ensure that product inspections are completed by Competent Persons as defined by international standards including but not limited to British Standard ("BS"). If equipment fails any inspections, it must be immediately withdrawn from service and destroyed. For more information regarding safe and appropriate use of equipment, please contact Buckingham Manufacturing at 1-800-937-2825.

## **OUR GUARANTEE:**

We guarantee the equipment we manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship. We will repair any equipment deemed to be defective which is returned to us by the original purchaser. However, this guarantee is void if any product is changed or altered in any way, or if the product is used in a manner other than for which it is intended. This express guarantee supersedes all other expressed or implied guarantees, obligations or liabilities. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and as such, all implied warranties are specifically disclaimed.

## **LIMITATION ON LIABILITY:**

In no event will Buckingham or buyer be liable to the other for lost revenues, lost profits or any other indirect, consequential, special or punitive losses or damages, however caused, whether in action for breach of contract, strict liability, tort, or otherwise, even if advised of the possibility of such losses or damages. In no event will Buckingham's liability exceed the total amount paid by the buyer to Buckingham for the product or equipment giving rise to such claim(s).

Please see other terms and conditions relating to this product at <https://buckinghammfg.com/terms-conditions/>

## **REGISTRATION:**

Before use of the product, ensure to register and confirm the product at [www.buckinghammfg.com/register](http://www.buckinghammfg.com/register).

**BUCKINGHAM MFG.**  
**Binghamton, NY**  
**1-800-937-2825**  
**[www.buckinghammfg.com](http://www.buckinghammfg.com)**

Information contained in these written instructions supersedes all other information (written, audio, video etc.) produced by Buckingham Mfg. prior to the revision date of this document.