ERCA Passive Rescue Assessment Guidance

Assessment Requirements
Complete a twin line passive rescue of either a stranded accessor or participant. Location and casualty equipment to be decided by the trainer. The rescue should include hoisting the casualty. 1. Correct setup of rescue bag/system including function check of the devices/system. 2. Access using appropriate working at height technique and equipment. 3. Appropriate communication with casualty and calling for assistance before accessing. 4. Selecting or creating appropriate anchors. 5. Correct setup and orientation of lowering device and fall arrest device with redirect carabiners where appropriate. 6. Attach to appropriate attachment point on casualty/participant harness. 7. Hoist the casualty/participant using appropriate hoisting device. 8. Remove casualty/participants original safety system 9. Commence lower. 10. Unlock a jammed fall arrest device during the lower of the casualty/participant. (If assessing multiple rescue types, then the trainer may decide to only see the hoist and release of the jammed fall arrest as part of one of the rescues.)

Note: The following list is not exhaustive:

Fail Criteria
Accessing: • Incorrectly loaded or attached fall arrest device and or descending device • Fall arrest device on incompatible attachment point of harness (The device must be compatible with the harness they are using in accordance with the manufacturers guidance.) • Inappropriate anchors selected • Single point of contact when in work position • Unsafe connector (eg, not closed, undone) • Inappropriate potential fall in relation to free space and falling space. This may be questioned as part of assessment to ensure the candidate understands appropriate fall zones and hazards. Fall arrest lanyards and/or work positioning device attached to incorrect part of harness. • No function check of devices or visual check of energy absorbers before committing themselves to access at height. • Accessing with incorrect selection/fitting of PPE Rescue: • Incorrect setup of rescue system at ground level. If the system is set up incorrectly but rectified then this may constitute a pass however, if the candidate is struggling to set the system up repeatedly or second guessing themselves then the trainer may decide not to pass them. • No function check of devices or visual check of energy absorbers. A function test of devices should be performed during preparation and packing of the rescue system and at an appropriate time during the rescue. • Inappropriate anchor selection or creation. • Removal of any part of the casualty/participant safety system before the rescue system is fully set up and checked (unless required to remove as part of the rescue. eg. Fall arrest lanyards are still attached and removing the work position device if it is in the way and not required.) • Unsafe connector (eg, not closed, undone) • Lowering device or fall arrest device loaded the wrong way round. If the system is set up incorrectly but rectified then this may constitute a pass however, if the candidate is struggling to set the system up repeatedly or second guessing themselves then the trainer may decide not to pass them. • Lack of redirect carabiner on lowering device when required (eg Petzl ID/ RIG, this is required by the manufacturer during 2 person rescues). • Non-PPE rated hoist (ratchet hoist) being used as part of the “safety chain”. Must always be on the safety system or the rescue system but not part of it. • Lack of control of the descending device during lower. (e.g. Lowering too fast, holding the handle of the device open and letting go of the control rope.) • Inappropriate selection of device (e.g. 1 person rated fall arrest device) • Single connection to casualty/participant.

This list is an example of what could constitute a minor discrepancy. The assessor should use this to help them make a decision on the candidates performance. Thes items may be used to help improve a candidates performance.
Rescue • Not function checking a device at height before the rescue but it has been checked on the ground. • No communication with casualty and/or poor communication with assist if appropriate • Not calling for support before accessing to perform the rescue. • Being rough with the casualty/participant (lack of casualty care) • Lowering casualty/participant into obstacles but still completing an appropriate and safe rescue. • Not completing a final check of the system before committing the casualty/participant to the rescue system but the system is correctly setup. • Hoisting the casualty/participant into obstacles/ not hoisting them high enough to remove their original lanyards. • Tangled ropes but still completing an appropriate and safe rescue. • Repeatedly second guessing themselves. This may show a lack of understanding/ lack of competence. • Lowering a casualty/participant too quickly/ out of control on their work positioning device or the hoist. Accessing • No buddy check completed • Fall arrest device kept low when ascending (if used)