

Daily Inspection Criteria and Instructions to Inspect SPEC Drive Cable and Connectors

The drive cable and connector are VERY critical to safety. Extra care should be taken when inspecting them. If the connector or drive cable is defective, it can cause a variety of equipment malfunctions and hazardous conditions. If the drive cable connector or the drive cable violates any of the following criteria, it should be removed from service immediately.

Inspect drive cable and connector daily. This inspection should include the connector ball, neck, swage area, and approximately 12 inches of drive cable closest to the connector. The visual inspection of the connector should be performed with at least a 5X magnifying glass. The inspection should verify that the connector and cable meet the criteria given below.

Note: A quarterly inspection of the drive cable connector and drive cable should also be performed by the RSO.

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Instructions

1. Manually inspect the connector swage area by manually attempting to twist the drive cable connector to verify that it is firmly attached to the drive cable.
2. Manually inspect the drive cable for flexibility and excessive rust by bending the last 6 inches of drive cable in to a "U" shape approximately 3 inches wide. When the drive cable is released, the end of the drive cable should spring back in its original straight shape. Failure to spring back most of the way (e.g. less than 30 degrees) indicates that corrosion or other abnormality has reduced the flexibility of the drive cable. If the cable springs back to essentially straight configuration it provides visual evidence that the cable is sufficiently flexible.
3. Visually inspect the drive cable for loose, bent, elongated, kinked, broken, or abnormally deformed wire strands.
4. Visually inspect the connector ball for signs of heavy wear.
5. Visually inspect the connector neck to ensure that it is not bent or cracked. If the connector neck is bent more than 10 degrees it should be replaced. A scaled illustration is provided which illustrates a connector bent at 10 degrees.



**Caution: Do not straighten a bent connector neck.
Bending can crack and weaken the neck.**