

Dropped Object Nets: The Specification Checklist

☐ **1. Rated as a system, not by material alone**

If a net is assembled from the right material but never tested as a complete unit, its performance as an assembled containment system has not been demonstrated.

Ask your supplier: Has this net design been drop-tested as a complete assembled system?

☐ **2. Correctly sized for the fixture**

A net that's noticeably oversized is usually obvious on inspection, but a net that's only slightly too large can still pass a casual check while allowing a detached component to fall further before the net catches it, increasing the arrest load on the net and reducing the margin relative to its tested configuration.

Ask your supplier: Is this net a snug fit to this fixture, or is it a generic or oversized fit?

☐ **3. Independent, appropriate load path via the securing arrangement**

If the net's attachment point shares a failure mode with the fixture's own mounting, a single failure event can defeat both the fixture's primary support and the net's containment simultaneously.

Ask your supplier: Can the securing arrangement be attached through a load path that is independent of the failure mode being protected against?

☐ **4. Installable correctly and consistently in real conditions**

A net that is compliant on paper but difficult to fit correctly in the field will be installed inconsistently across sites and technicians, undermining the control regardless of its design. This depends less on sizing itself (covered in criterion 2) and more on whether the installation process holds up under real field conditions. **Ask your supplier:**

- Are the components clearly identified?
- Can the intended configuration be achieved without improvisation or field modification?
- What tools/competence/training are required?
- Are the instructions sufficient to achieve a repeatable installation?

☐ **5. Suitable for the operating environment**

Heat, UV exposure, moisture, and corrosive conditions degrade materials and hardware over time, changing performance from what was originally specified.

Ask your supplier: Is this net rated for the specific temperature, UV, moisture, and corrosion conditions of the environment it will actually operate in?

☐ **6. Verifiable product identification and traceability**

A net must remain identifiable throughout its service life, with documentation that allows its original specifications and test records to be verified. It also needs clear inspection and replacement criteria so its continued suitability can be assessed after installation.

Ask your supplier: Can the net be identified and linked to its original documentation?