According to a first aspect of the disclosure there is provided a method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly including synthetic fibers as a primary tension-carrying element, comprising:

a. providing a core of synthetic fibers, said core having a first end and a second end;

b. attaching a first fixed termination to said first end of said core;

c. attaching a second fixed termination to said second end of said core;

d. providing a first inspection region proximate said first fixed termination;

e. providing a second inspection region proximate said second fixed termination;

f. providing a jacket surrounding said core but not covering said first and second inspection regions;

g. wherein said jacket is made of a cut-resistant and abrasion-resistant material;

h. providing a first removable cover configured to selectably cover said first inspection region;

i. providing a second removable cover configured to selectably cover said second inspection region;

j. said first removable cover providing a seal over said first inspection area;

k. said second removable cover providing a seal over said second inspection area;

l. removing said first removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said first inspection area; and

m. removing said second removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said second inspection area.

According to a second aspect of the disclosure there is provided a method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly including synthetic fibers as a primary tension-carrying element, comprising:

a. providing a core of synthetic fibers, said core having a first end;

b. attaching a first fixed termination to said first end of said core;

c. providing a first inspection region proximate said first fixed termination;

d. providing a jacket surrounding said core but not covering said first inspection region;

e. wherein said jacket protects said core of synthetic fibers;

f. providing a first removable cover configured to selectably cover said first inspection region, said first removable cover providing a seal over said first inspection area; and

g. removing said first removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said first inspection area;

wherein the seal provided by the first removable cover is removable to allow said inspection region to selectively provide access to at least one critical tensile member assembly area while the fixed termination remains in place, and wherein said first removable cover is releasably engageable with the jacket and/or the first fixed termination to prevent the ingress of unwanted factors.

The user may choose to unscrew threaded cover 64 and thereby gain access to the inspection region it covers. The user may then go further by unscrewing neck anchor portion 106 from distal anchor portion 108. This allows the user to extend the inspection region well into the potted region of the termination (for the case of a potted termination). In the case of a mechanical termination (such as a spike-and-cone) the extended inspection region allows the user to visualize an additional length of fibers. These transitional regions tend to carry high stress concentrations are subject to wear over use. The extended inspection region may only be used some of the time (such as to help ensure the proper initial setup of this region when it is first loaded).

Additional features and variations for the present invention include the following:

1. A version where a substantial portion of the termination or the cable jacket is transparent;

2. A version where the removable cover is a piece of tape, a helical wrapping, a wire wrapping, or a painted layer; and

3. A version where each individual termination on each individual tensile member is gathered into a larger collector of terminations (in order to build a much larger tensile member, for example).

Although the preceding description contains significant detail, it should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but rather as providing illustrations of the preferred embodiments of the invention. As an example, the removable covers could assume many different forms and could attach in different ways. Thus, the scope of the present invention should be fixed by the claims rather than the specific examples given.

It will be understood that the term “comprise” and any of its derivatives (eg comprises, comprising) as used in this specification is to be taken to be inclusive of features to which it refers, and is not meant to exclude the presence of any additional features unless otherwise stated or implied.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgement of any form of suggestion that such prior art forms part of the common general knowledge.

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly including synthetic fibers as a primary tension-carrying element, comprising:

   a. providing a core of synthetic fibers, said core having a first end and a second end;

   b. attaching a first fixed termination to said first end of said core;

   c. attaching a second fixed termination to said second end of said core;

   d. providing a first inspection region proximate said first fixed termination;

   e. providing a second inspection region proximate said second fixed termination;

   f. providing a jacket surrounding said core but not covering said first and second inspection regions;

   g. wherein said jacket is made of a cut-resistant and abrasion-resistant material;

   h. providing a first removable cover configured to selectably cover said first inspection region;

   i. providing a second removable cover configured to selectably cover said second inspection region;

   j. said first removable cover providing a seal over said first inspection area;

   k. said second removable cover providing a seal over said second inspection area;

   l. removing said first removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said first inspection area; and

   m. removing said second removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said second inspection area.

2. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein:

   a. said first fixed termination has a first anchor;

b. said jacket has a first end, with said first end being separated from said first anchor by a first gap, said first gap creating said first inspection region;

c. said first removable cover covering said first gap;

d. said second fixed termination has a second anchor;

e. said jacket has a second end, with said second end being separated from said second anchor by a second gap, said second gap creating said second inspection region; and

f. said second removable cover covering said second gap.

3. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein:

a. said first removable cover includes two separable halves configured to clamp over said first anchor, said first gap, and said first end of said jacket; and

b. said second removable cover includes two separable halves configured to clamp over said second anchor, said second gap, and said second end of said jacket.

4. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein:

a. said first anchor includes an anchor ring;

b. said first jacket end includes a jacket ring;

c. said first removable cover includes an anchor ring receiver configured to receive and engage said anchor ring on said first anchor;

d. said first removable cover includes a jacket ring receiver configured to receive and engage said jacket ring on said first end of said jacket;

e. said second anchor includes an anchor ring;

f. said second jacket end includes a jacket ring;

g. said second removable cover includes an anchor ring receiver configured to receive and engage said anchor ring on said second anchor; and

h. said second removable cover includes a jacket ring receiver configured to receive and engage said jacket ring on said second end of said jacket.

5. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein:

a. said first gap is covered by a transparent sleeve; and

b. said second gap is covered by a second transparent sleeve.

6. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein:

a. said first removable cover is a sleeve that is selectively connected to said first anchor by a threaded engagement; and

b. said second removable cover is a sleeve that is selectively connected to said second anchor by a threaded engagement.

7. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein:

a. said first jacket end includes a jacket ring;

b. said second jacket end includes a jacket ring;

c. said first removable cover includes a shoulder configured to bear against said jacket ring on said first jacket end; and

d. said second removable cover includes a shoulder configured to bear against said jacket ring on said second jacket end.

8. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein:

a. said first inspection region is accessed through a passage in said first fixed termination; and

b. said second inspection region is accessed through a passage in said second fixed termination.

9. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein:

a. said first inspection region lies within a first transverse passage through said tensile member;

b. said first removable cover is designed to slidably fit within said first transverse passage;

c. said second inspection region lies within a second transverse passage through said tensile member; and

d. said second removable cover is designed to slidably fit within said second transverse passage.

10. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said jacket includes two layers having contrasting colors.

11. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly including synthetic fibers as a primary tension-carrying element, comprising:

a. providing a core of synthetic fibers, said core having a first end;

b. attaching a first fixed termination to said first end of said core;

c. providing a first inspection region proximate said first fixed termination;

d. providing a jacket surrounding said core but not covering said first inspection region;

e. wherein said jacket protects said core of synthetic fibers;

f. providing a first removable cover configured to selectably cover said first inspection region; said first removable cover providing a seal over said first inspection area; and

g. removing said first removable cover to permit inspection of said core within said first inspection area.

wherein the seal provided by the first removable cover is removable to allow said inspection region to selectively provide access to at least one critical tensile member assembly area while the fixed termination remains in place,

and wherein said first removable cover is releasably engageable with the jacket and/or the first fixed termination to prevent the ingress of unwanted factors.

12. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein:

a. said first fixed termination has a first anchor;

b. said jacket has a first end, with said first end being separated from said first anchor by a first gap, said first gap creating said first inspection region; and

c. said first removable cover covers said first gap.

13. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said first removable cover includes two separable halves configured to clamp over said first anchor, said first gap, and said first end of said jacket.

14. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein:

a. said first anchor includes an anchor ring;

b. said first jacket end includes a jacket ring;

c. said first removable cover includes an anchor ring receiver configured to receive and engage said anchor ring on said first anchor; and

d. said first removable cover includes a jacket ring receiver configured to receive and engage said jacket ring on said first end of said jacket.

15. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said first gap is covered by a transparent sleeve.

16. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said first removable cover is a sleeve that is selectively connected to said first anchor by a threaded engagement.

17. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein:

a. said first jacket end includes a jacket ring; and

b. said first removable cover includes a shoulder configured to bear against said jacket ring on said first jacket end.

18. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said first inspection region is accessed through a passage in said first fixed termination.

19. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein:

a. said first inspection region lies within a first transverse passage through said tensile member; and

b. said first removable cover is designed to slidably fit within said first transverse passage.

20. A method for providing a durable yet inspectable tensile member assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said durable jacket includes two layers having contrasting colors.