

CLAIMS:

1. A helideck safety net including:

a net elongated in a longitudinal direction, the net formed of lengths of line
arrayed in the longitudinal direction alongside one another, and fastening means
5 that join adjacent lengths at intervals to form cells of the net, wherein a
longitudinal row of cells is formed on longitudinal edges of the net and the
longitudinal edges are joined by at least one end edge, wherein an end row of
cells is formed along the at least one end edge,

at least one spreader bar adapted to pass through the cells of one of the end
10 rows, and

an edge line adapted to secure the net inside a perimeter frame by being wound
generally helically in loops around the perimeter frame, each loop passing
through a cell of the longitudinal rows, and through a cell of the end rows and
simultaneously inside the at least one spreader bar to secure the spreader bar
15 to the perimeter frame, wherein the at least one spreader bar includes an array
of openings through which the edge line can be threaded to fix the ends of the
edge line.

2. The helideck safety net of claim 1 wherein the at least one end edge comprises
a pair of end edges that are longitudinally opposing, each end edge
20 comprising a respective end row of cells, and the at least one spreader bar
comprises a pair of spreader bars that are each adapted to pass through the
cells of one of the end rows.

3. The helideck safety net of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the net is formed of wire,

or like resilient material to provide bending resilience.

4. The helideck safety net of claim 3 wherein the wire is a multi-strand wire, such as a twisted wire.
5. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein the fastening means comprise crimps.
6. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein the line forming the lengths and the edge line are of the same construction.
7. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein the spreader bars are tubular.
10. 8. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein the net, edge line and spreader bars are constructed of the same material, particularly from inherently corrosion resistant steel.
15. 9. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein the openings of the array of openings extend transversely through the spreader bar, and are axially spaced apart.
10. The helideck safety net of claim 9 wherein the openings are disposed in coaxial pairs in diametrically opposing wall parts of the spreader bar.
11. The helideck safety net of claim 9 or claim 10 wherein central axes of the openings generally lie in longitudinal plane that bisects the spreader bar.
20. 12. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims wherein a notch is formed in each of the longitudinally opposing ends of the spreader bar, the notches adapted to receive parts on transversely opposing edges of the net to

spread the net transversely.

13. The helideck safety net of claim 12 wherein the notch comprises notch parts in diametrically opposed sections of the respective end of the spreader bar, an axis of the notch being aligned generally orthogonal to the central axes of the openings.

14. The helideck safety net of any of the preceding claims further comprising the perimeter of frame, which may comprise parallel outer and inner longitudinal members joined by shorter transversely extending inclined members.

15. A method for installing a helideck safety net, the method including:

10 providing a first net elongated in a longitudinal direction, the net formed of lengths of line arrayed in the longitudinal direction alongside one another, and fastening means that join adjacent lengths at intervals to form cells of the net, wherein an end row of cells is formed at both longitudinally opposing edges of the net, and a longitudinal row of cells is formed at both longitudinal edges of the net,

15 providing a spreader bar having an array of openings;

passing the spreader bar through the cells of one of the end rows, and

generally helically winding an edge line in loops around a perimeter frame to secure the net inside the perimeter frame, the generally helically winding comprising passing each loop through a cell of the longitudinal rows, and through a cell of the end rows and simultaneously inside the spreader bars to secure the spreader bars to the perimeter frame, and

threading the edge line through consecutive ones of the openings to fix an end of the edge line to the spreader bar.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

5 providing a second net elongated in a longitudinal direction, the net formed of lengths of line arrayed in the longitudinal direction alongside one another, and fastening means that join adjacent lengths at intervals to form cells of the net, wherein an end row of cells is formed at both longitudinally opposing edges of the net, and a longitudinal row of cells is formed at both longitudinal edges of the net,

10 joining a first one of the end rows of the first net to a second one of the end rows of the second net by passing a spreader bar through the cells of both the first one and the second one of the end rows, and

connecting opposite ends of the spreader bar to the frame using an edge line that secures adjacent ones of the longitudinal row of cells to the perimeter frame.

15 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

providing a second net elongated in a longitudinal direction, the net formed of lengths of line arrayed in the longitudinal direction alongside one another, and fastening means that join adjacent lengths at intervals to form cells of the net, wherein an end row of cells is formed at both longitudinally opposing edges of the net, and a longitudinal row of cells is formed at both longitudinal edges of the net,

20 passing each of a pair of spreader bars through the cells of a respective one of the end rows of a respective one of first and second nets, and

to connect the first and second nets, winding a line in a helical manner around the outsides of the pair of spreader bars.