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American National Standard
Construction and Demolition Operations

Personal Fall Protection
Used in Construction and Demolition Operations

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Engineers
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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard A10.32-2012.)

This standard is one of a series of safety standards that have been formulated by the Accredited Standards Committee on Safety in Construction and Demolition Operations, A10. It is expected that the standards in the A10 series will find a major application in industry, serving as a guide to contractors, labor, and equipment manufacturers. For the convenience of users, a list of existing and proposed standards in the A10 series for Safety Requirements in Construction and Demolition Operations follows.

A10.1 Pre-Project & Pre-Task Safety & Health Planning
A10.2 Safety, Health, and Environmental Training (under development)
A10.3 Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems
A10.4 Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators
A10.5 Material Hoists
A10.6 Demolition Operations
A10.7 Transportation, Storage, Handling, and Use of Commercial Explosives and Blasting Agents
A10.8 Scaffolding
A10.9 Concrete and Masonry Construction
A10.10 Temporary and Portable Space Heating Devices
A10.11 Personnel and Debris Nets
A10.12 Excavation
A10.13 Steel Erection
A10.15 Dredging
A10.16 Tunnels, Shafts, and Caissons
A10.17 Safe Operating Practices for Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Construction
A10.18 Temporary Roof and Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways, and Other Unprotected Edges
A10.19 Pile Installation and Extraction Operations
A10.20 Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, and Marble Work
A10.21 Safe Construction and Demolition of Wind Generation/Turbine Facilities (under development)
A10.22 Rope-Guided and Non-Guided Workers’ Hoists
A10.23 Safety Requirements for the Installation of Drilled Shafts (under development)
A10.24 Roofing – Safety Requirements for Low-Sloped Roofs
A10.25 Sanitation in Construction
A10.26 Emergency Procedures for Construction Sites
A10.27 Hot Mix Asphalt Facilities
A10.28 Work Platforms Suspended from Cranes or Derricks
A10.29 Aerial Platforms in Construction (under development)
A10.31 Digger-Derricks
A10.32 Personal Fall Protection Used in Construction and Demolition Operations
A10.33 Safety and Health Program Requirements for Multi-Employer Projects
A10.34 Public Protection
A10.35 Debris Nets
A10.36 Basic Elements of a Program to Provide a Safe and Healthful Work Environment
A10.37 Construction Safety and Health Audit Program
A10.38 Reduction of Musculoskeletal Problems in Construction
A10.39 Equipment Operator and Supervisor Qualifications and Responsibilities (under development)
A10.40 Rigging Qualifications and Responsibilities in the Construction Industry
A10.41 Confined Spaces in Construction (under development)
One purpose of these standards is to serve as guides to governmental authorities having jurisdiction over subjects within the scope of the A10 Committee standards. If these standards are adopted for governmental use, the reference of other national codes or standards in individual volumes may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations.

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Alstom Power
American Insurance Services Group
ASCE - Construction Institute Committee
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American Wind Energy Association
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1. GENERAL

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes performance criteria for personal fall protection equipment and systems in construction and demolition and provides guidelines, recommendations for their use and inspection. It includes, but is not limited to; fall arrest, restraint, positioning, climbing, descending, rescue, escape and training activities.

Exceptions: This standard does not include lineman’s body belts, pole straps, window washer’s belts, chest/waist harnesses and sports equipment.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to provide minimum guidelines to users of personal fall protection equipment.

1.3 Application. This standard applies to users of personal fall protection equipment; to those personnel responsible for the selection, procurement, inspection, use, care and maintenance of the equipment; and to those responsible for training and supervision of the users.

1.4 Resolutions. In order to provide for superior protection to the user, this standard permits:

1.4.1 Only full body harnesses shall be used for fall arrest. The fall arrest attachment point of the body harness shall be at the center of the user’s back near shoulder level.

1.4.2 Maximum arresting force imposed on the user’s body shall not exceed 1,800 pounds (8kN).

1.4.3 All equipment used in a fall protection system shall be compatible to limit force levels, maintain system strength and prevent accidental disengagement.

1.4.4 Equipment serviced by the manufacturer or their authorized representative shall be capable of meeting all performance requirements of this standard.

1.5 Exceptions. In cases of practical difficulty or undue hardship, the responsible authority may grant exceptions to the literal requirements of this standard or permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly evident that personnel and equipment protection is assured.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Accidental Disengagement. A process whereby a connector unintentionally comes free from the component to which it is attached.

2.2 Activation Distance. The distance traveled by a fall arrester or the amount of line payed out by a self-retracting lanyard (SRL) from the point of onset of a fall to the point where the fall arrester or self-retracting lifeline begins to apply a braking or stopping force.

2.3 Active Fall Protection. A fall protection system that requires authorized persons to wear or use fall protection equipment and that requires fall protection training.

2.4 Anchorage. The terminating component of a fall protection system or rescue system that is intended to support any forces applied to the system.