

# AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

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ANSI/ASSE A10.32-2012  
Personal Fall Protection  
Used in Construction and Demolition Operations

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Reference Standard-Part of the Fall Protection Code

VERSION **3**



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY ENGINEERS



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**ANSI/ASSE A10.32 – 2012**

**American National Standard  
Construction and Demolition Operations**

**Personal Fall Protection  
Used in Construction and Demolition Operations**

Secretariat

**American Society of Safety Engineers**  
1800 East Oakton Street  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018-2187

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## American National Standard

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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
- A10.37 Debris Nets
- A10.38 Basic Elements of a Program to Provide a Safe and Healthful Work Environment
- A10.39 Construction Safety and Health Audit Program
- A10.40 Reduction of Musculoskeletal Problems in Construction
- A10.41 Equipment Operator and Supervisor Qualifications and Responsibilities (under development)
- A10.42 Rigging Qualifications and Responsibilities in the Construction Industry
- A10.43 Confined Spaces in Construction (under development)

A10.44 Lockout/Tagout in Construction  
A10.46 Hearing Loss Prevention  
A10.47 Highway Construction Safety  
A10.48 Communication Tower Erection (under development)  
A10.49 Control of Health Hazards (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.

*Revisions:* The A10 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made to the standard periodically (usually five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the A10 Committee to process the changes in a more timely manner.

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 Timothy R. Fisher, CSP, CHMM, ARM, CPEA, Secretary  
 Jennie Dalesandro, Administrative Technical Support

<b>Organization Represented</b>	<b>Name of Representative</b>
Accident Prevention Corporation	Frank Burg, CSP, P.E. Michael Serpe, CSP
Aegis Corporation	Matthew J. Burkart, P.E. Judith Burkart
Alstom Power	Robert Renney Ted P. Sharp
American Insurance Services Group	Thad Nosal James G. Borchardt, CSP, CPE, CRIS
ASCE - Construction Institute Committee	William R. Nash, P.E. Harlan Fair
American Society of Safety Engineers	Ken Shorter, CSP, ARM A. David Brayton, CSP, CPC
American Wind Energy Association	Michele Myers Mihelic
American Work Platform Training, Inc.	Dennis W. Eckstine
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.	Ralph Riley Chris Williams
Associated General Contractors of America, The	Charlie Bird Kevin Cannon
Association of Union Constructors, The	Wayne Creasap, II Brian Doran
A-Z Safety Resources, Inc.	Jane F. Williams, CPEA, CCA
Barton-Malow Company	Mark Klimbal, CSP, ARM Clayton Shafer
Black & Veatch	Richard F. King, CSP John H. Johnson, CSP
Bovis Lend Lease	Joel C. Pickering Michael Lentz
Building & Construction Trades Department	Pete Stafford Jim Platner, Ph.D., CIH
CPWR - Center for Construction Research & Training	Chris Trahan, CIH Pete Stafford
Capital Safety Group	Scott C. Casebolt J. Thomas Wolner, P.E.
Clark Construction Group	Tim Sirofchuck, CSP Kurt Dunmire
Cole-Preferred Safety Consulting, Inc.	Barry Cole
Philip L. Colleran	Philip L. Colleran, CSP
Construction & Realty Safety Group, Inc.	Ron Lattanzio Frank Marino
ECI Safety Services Co.	Anthony Merisola Patrick Brennan, CSHM, CSSM
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Ellis Fall Safety Solutions

Gilbane Building Co.

Richard D. Hislop  
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.

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Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons  
International Association

Daniel M. Paine

Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors, Inc.

Powder Actuated Tool Manufacturer's Institute

Michael D. Morand  
J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE  
John Whitty, P.E.  
Anthony O'Dea, CSP, CHST  
Charles Praul, Jr., CSP  
Richard Hislop  
John P. Masarick  
Bob Baird  
Lon D. Santis  
Susan JP Flanagan  
Terry Lynch  
Jim E. Lapping, MS, P.E., CSP

Steve Rank  
Robert Migliaccio, Sr.  
Brian Loftus  
Bridget Connors  
James Tomaseski  
LaMont Byrd, CIH  
Julie Plavka  
Cristine Fargo  
Michael Kassman, CHST  
Gerard Scarano  
Barbara McCabe  
Steve Brown  
Jack Mickle, Ph.D., P.E.  
Steve Stock, P.E., PLS  
Scott Schneider, MS, CIH  
Walter A. Jones, MS  
Timothy Bergeron, CSP  
Mischelle Vanreusel  
Eric Uttenreither  
Peter Chaney, MS, CSP  
Dennis Langley  
Robert Matuga  
Dylan Hardison

Lewis Barbe, P.E., CSP, CRSP  
Michael J. Johnston  
Jerry Rivera  
Thomas G. Bobick, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE  
Matt Gillen, CIH

Jeffrey D. Meddin, CSP, CHCM, CHEP  
Harry Dietz  
Tom Shanahan  
E. Ross Curtis, P.E., DFE  
Paul Swanson, P.E.

Deven Johnson  
Rob Mason  
Daniel M. Paine  
Barbara Paine  
Robert E. Clouse, CSP, CHST  
Frank Massey  
James A. Borchers



Power Consultants, Incorporated	David Jablonski
Professional Safety Consultants, Inc.	David Goldsmith
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America	Camille Villanova
Ryland Group, Inc., The	Jim E. Lapping, MS, P.E., CSP
Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute	Anthony Brown
Shafer Safety Solutions, LLC	John Rabovsky, MS, CSP, ARM
Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association	Daniel Lavoie, CSP
Sheet Metal Workers International Association	Bob Masterson, CSP
SPA, Incorporated	Chris Johnson
Turner Construction Company	Carmen Shafer, CSP, CHST, CRIS
United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters	Mike McCullion, CSP, ARM
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America	Joe Visgaitis
United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers	Gary Batykefer
U.S. Department of the Army – Corps of Engineers	Charles Austin, MS
U.S. Department of Energy	Stanley Pulz, CSP, P.E.
West Virginia University Extension Service	Richard B. Loucks, Ph.D., P.E.
Winchester Homes Inc.	Cindy L. DePrater, ALCM
ZBD Constructors (Zurn Industries)	Paul Huntley
	Laurie Shadrick
	Bruce Dantley
	William Irwin
	Thomas L. Kavicky
	John Barnhard
	Brian Becker, MS
	Ellen B. Stewart, CSP
	Leslie Bermudez
	Joseph Hopkins
	Brandon Takacs, CSHM
	Mark Fullen, Ed.D., CSP
	Thomas Trauger
	Larry Friert
	Greg Thompson, CSP
	Jeffrey D. Meddin, CSP, CHCM, CHEP

**Subgroup A10.32 had the following members:**

Daniel Paine (Chairman/Liaison)	Robert Matuga
Preston Anderson	Randal Moore, Esq.
Jeremy Bethancourt	Barbara Paine
Matthew J. Burkart, P.E.	Tom Shanahan
Scott Casebolt	Steven T. Theis, CSP, CUSA
Robert E. Clouse	James Tomaseski
Mark Conover	Thomas Trauger
J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE	Chuck Wigger
Cristine Fargo	Tom Wolner
Phalen D. Frey, CSP	
Dan Henn	

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## AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD A10.32 PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION USED IN CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION OPERATIONS

### 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.