

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE Z359.12-2009 Connecting Components for Personal Fall Arrest Systems

Part of the Fall Protection Code

VERSION **3**



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY ENGINEERS



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ANSI®
ANSI/ASSE Z359.12 – 2009

American National Standard

**Connecting Components for
Personal Fall Arrest Systems**

Secretariat

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

Approved June 23, 2009

Effective November 16, 2009

American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Published August, 2009 by:

American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018-2187
(847) 699-2929 • www.asse.org

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Printed in the United States of America

Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.12-2009.)

This standard, national in scope, was developed by an Accredited Standards Committee functioning under the procedures of the American National Standards Institute, with the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) as secretariat.

It is intended that every employer whose operations fall within the scope and purpose of the standard will adopt the guidelines and requirements detailed in this standard.

The need for this standards activity grew out of the continuing development of a series of fall protection-related standards. The focus is to tie the elements of those standards together and provide the tools with which employers may develop the programs that incorporate those elements. This standard also brings together the administrative requirements of those fall protection standards. It should be noted, as in all Z359-series standards, that this standard applies to all occupational and non-occupational activities except those in SIC Division C (construction). It also is not intended to apply to sports activities such as mountaineering.

Neither the standards committee, nor the secretariat, states that this standard is perfect or in its ultimate form. It is recognized that new developments are to be expected, and that revisions of the standard will be necessary as the state-of-the-art progresses and further experience is gained. It is felt, however, that uniform guidelines for fall protection programs are very much needed and that the standard in its present form provides for the minimum criteria necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive managed fall protection program.

The Z359 Committee acknowledges the critical role of design in influencing the use of proper fall protection equipment. Designs which eliminate fall hazards through the proper application of the hierarchy of safety controls are the preferred method for fall protection. Design deficiencies often increase the risk for employees who may be exposed to fall hazards: examples are (1) lack of rail systems to prevent falls from machines, equipment and structures; (2) failure to provide engineered anchorages where use of personal fall arrest systems are anticipated; (3) no provision for safe access to elevated work areas; (4) installation of machines or equipment at heights, rather than floor/ground level to preclude access to elevated areas; (5) failure to plan for the use of travel restriction or work positioning devices. To that end, this series of standards also provides guidance for design considerations for new buildings and facilities.

Basic fall safety principles have been incorporated into these standards, including hazard survey, hazard elimination and control, and education and training. The primary intent is to ensure a proactive approach to fall protection. However, the reactive process of accident investigation is also addressed to ensure that adequate attention is given to causation of falls.

The Z359 Committee solicits public input that may suggest the need for revisions to this standard. Such input should be sent to the Secretariat, ASC Z359, American Society of Safety Engineers, 1800 E. Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187.

This standard was developed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the American National Standards Committee on Standards for Fall Protection, Z359. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the Z359 Committee had the following members:

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STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATIONS, EXCEPTIONS, AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking, qualification, test methods and removal from service of connectors.

1.1.1 Body belts, window cleaner belts, chest-waist harnesses and chest harnesses, even when referred to as body supports, are not addressed by the provisions of this fall protection standard.

1.2 Purpose and Applications.

1.2.1 This standard addresses only components that are used in the interconnection of a complete unit, intended to be used as a primary single link to a permanent anchorage connector, and/or intended to be used as a primary attachment point.

1.2.2 This standard addresses fall protection hardware used in occupations requiring personal protection against falls from heights and applies to the manufacturers, distributors, purchasers and users of such equipment.

1.2.3 Before any equipment shall bear the marking of the connector standard or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all requirements of this standard shall be met.

1.3 Exceptions.

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard do not address the construction industry (SIC Division C), window cleaning belts and sports-related activities.

1.3.2 Although personal fall protection systems incorporating horizontal lifelines (as well as personal protective systems for climbing, man riding, travel restriction, rescue and evacuation) may suitably incorporate components or subsystems specified herein, those systems (and components and sub-

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

(Not part of American National Standard Z359.12)

E1.1 See Figures 1 for illustrations of the equipment covered by this standard. Connectors are commonly referred to as fall protection hardware. Equipment used in personal fall protection systems is commonly referred to as "personal protective equipment" (PPE) in the literature of the safety field.

E1.1.1 For definitions of window cleaner belts, see reference 8.1.

E1.2.1 See ANSI/ASSE Z359.0 for explanation of acronyms used within this standard.

E1.2.2 This is a voluntary consensus standard. The legal requirements for protection against falls from heights are established by applicable regulatory bodies governing occupational safety.

E1.3.1 See reference 8.2 for definition of SIC Division C.

E1.3.2 Hardware incorporated into work positioning systems outlined by ANSI/ASSE Z359.3 are covered by this standard.