AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE Z359.13-2013
Personal Energy Absorbers and Energy Absorbing Lanyards

Part of the Fall Protection Code

VERSION 3

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

Approved American National Standard
ANSI

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ANSI/ASSE Z359.13 – 2013

American National Standard

Personal Energy Absorbers and Energy Absorbing Lanyards

Secretariat

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

Approved March 13, 2013

American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.13-2013.)

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 occupational activities. It does not 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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EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

(Not part of American National Standard Z359.13)

1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATIONS, EXCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design criteria, marking, qualification and verification testing, instructions, inspections, maintenance and removal from service of personal energy absorbers and energy absorbing lanyards for users within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 - 140 kg.).

E1.1.1 *It is the intention of this standard to require all personal energy absorbers and energy absorbing lanyards to reduce the forces implied on the user to less than 10 G's (10 times the normal gravitational pull of the Earth). Users below 130 pounds may experience forces higher than 10 G's.*

1.1.2 This standard is for use by organizations where employees are exposed to fall hazards.

1.2 Purpose and Applications.

1.2.2 Before any equipment shall bear the marking Z359.13 (personal energy absorbers and energy absorbing lanyards) or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all requirements of this standard shall be met.

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.*

1.3 Exceptions. The requirements of this standard do not address window cleaning belts and sports related activities.

1.4 Interpretations. Requests for interpretations of this standard shall be in writing and addressed to the Secretariat of this standard.

1.5 The requirements of this standard supersede any corresponding requirements in the ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007, *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems, and Components.*

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions relating to personal energy absorbers and energy absorbing lanyards can be found in ANSI/ASSE Z359.0, *Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest.*