

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2017 Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program

Part of the Fall Protection Code



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY ENGINEERS



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American National Standard

**Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive
Managed Fall Protection Program**

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Engineers

520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

Approved January 9, 2017

American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.2-2017.)

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 standard 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 activities except sports activities such as mountaineering.

Neither the standard's 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 protection equipment is 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 restraint or work positioning devices. To that end, this standard also provides guidance for design considerations for new buildings and facilities.

Basic fall safety principles have been incorporated into this standard, 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, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

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.

1.1.1 This standard establishes criteria and requirements for an employer's fall protection program including policies, duties and responsibilities, training, survey and identification of fall hazards, fall protection procedures, eliminating or controlling fall hazards, rescue procedures, program implementation, incident investigation and evaluating program effectiveness.

1.1.2 This standard is for use by employers where employees are exposed to fall hazards when working at heights and using personal fall protection equipment.

1.2 Purpose and Applications.

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum requirements of a fall protection program that will enable an employer to identify, evaluate, eliminate or control fall hazards in the workplace.

1.3 Exceptions.

1.3.1 The criteria and requirements of this standard do not apply to sporting activities.

1.3.2 This standard does not include fall protection practices where exposure to a fall exists and the protection method does not offer a physical means of protection. Safety monitors, fall protection plans, controlled access zones, spotters and similar systems that do not provide a positive means of fall protection are outside the scope of this standard.

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

(Not part of American National Standard Z359.2)

E1.1.1 *Developing and implementing a comprehensive fall protection program is the most effective tool for employers to: identify, evaluate, eliminate or control fall hazards through planning; ensure proper training of personnel; ensure proper installation and use of fall protection and rescue systems and implement viable fall protection and rescue procedures.*

The intent of the fall protection program is that each fall hazard is identified, a control method is selected, workers are trained according to the control method and the specific work practice (how to access, where to anchor, which system to use, etc.) is documented through written fall protection and rescue procedures.