

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE Z359.4-2013
Safety Requirements for Assisted-Rescue and
Self-Rescue Systems, Subsystems and Components

Part of the Fall Protection Code

VERSION **3**



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY ENGINEERS



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American National Standard

**Safety Requirements for
Assisted-Rescue and Self-Rescue Systems,
Subsystems and Components**

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 Z359.4-2013.)

Individuals engaged in rescue operations in areas where exposure to a fall hazard exists will benefit from the information contained in this standard. This standard addresses equipment and performance criteria for systems, subsystems and components used in preplanned assisted-rescue and self-rescue where a fall hazard exists. Requirements for adequate training and thorough pre-planning efforts prior to the initiation of assisted-rescue or self-rescue operations address the needs of both the rescuer and the rescue subject. This standard establishes criteria for equipment marking, testing, care and use.

This standard is part of a series of American National Standards for Fall Protection for all occupational and non-occupational activities. It is not intended to apply to sports activities such as mountaineering, nor to specialized rescue efforts that may be associated with such activities. The first ANSI standard of this series, Z359.1 published in 1992 and was revised in 2007, addresses personal fall arrest systems. Other standards planned for the Z359 series will address related subjects, and the overall fall protection program.

Whenever fall arrest systems are used, indeed, whenever a fall hazard exists, it is necessary to plan for the effective rescue of persons who have experienced a fall event, whether it be a self-rescue application or assisted rescue application. Considering the diverse technical and environmental circumstances that can be presented to rescue personnel, development of a comprehensive rescue plan is integral to the safety of rescue personnel, the rescue subject, and the eventual success of the rescue effort.

The comprehensive rescue plan predicts circumstances that might require rescue activities, anticipates hazards associated with rescue operations, identifies methods to control those hazards, recommends the appropriate response measures and identifies the fall arrest and retrieval equipment to be used. The rescue plan may call for methods or equipment that are outside the scope of this standard, such as technical rope rescue, when such methods are reasonable and feasible and estimated to be the most effective rescue method.

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 Standard 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, APPLICATION, EXCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking, qualification, instruction, training, use, maintenance and removal from service of connectors, harnesses, lanyards, anchorage connectors, winches/hoists, descent control devices, rope tackle blocks and self-retracting lanyards with integral rescue capability comprising rescue systems, utilized in pre-planned self-rescue and assisted-rescue applications for one to two persons.

1.2 Purpose and Application. The purpose of this standard is to establish criteria to ensure suitability of the equipment and methods defined herein for use in rescue situations where a fall hazard exists.

Rescue system elements, components or subsystems meeting the requirements of this standard may not be represented as complying with or used in personal fall arrest systems (PFAS) claiming compliance with ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 or other relevant Z359 standards unless the requirements of that standard are additionally met. The requirements of this standard supersede any corresponding requirements in ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 American National Standards

1.3 Exceptions.

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard do not address sport-related activities, rope access rescue techniques utilized by certified rescue technicians or other tasks that have established national consensus standards. However, this does not preclude use of equipment addressed within this standard for such activities where appropriate.

1.3.2 The competent person shall determine the suitability of equipment addressed within this standard for activities conducted in hazardous atmospheres.

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

(Not part of American National Standard Z359.4)

E1.3.2 For a definition of competent person refer to the ANSI/ASSE Z359.0, *Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest*, and for additional information refer to ANSI/ASSE Z359.2, *Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program*.