

ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2016

The Fall Protection Code

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American National Standard

The Fall Protection Code

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Engineers

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Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

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American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.1-2016)

The first edition of ANSI/ASSE Z359.1, published in 1992, was the first American National Standard for personal fall arrest systems in non-construction occupations. It established requirements for performance, design, marking, qualification, instruction, training, inspection, use, maintenance and removal from service of full body harnesses, connectors, lanyards, energy absorbers, anchorage connectors, fall arresters, vertical lifelines and self-retracting lanyards.

This standard was reaffirmed in 1999 and revised in 2007. By the time the next revision appeared in 2007, it was accompanied by new ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards for managed fall protection program elements, positioning and travel restraint systems, and rescue systems. Additionally, the definitions common to all ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards were published in a separate standard. In the years since then, new standards have been developed for the products and systems covered by ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007, and the requirements of that standard have been superseded. This set of ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards is referred to collectively as the Fall Protection Code.

This edition of ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 therefore is a new standard in regards to technical content, not a simple revision of the requirements in the previous editions. The intent of this standard is to provide a key to understanding and applying the standards within the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code, as well as a single point of reference to define compliance with the Code. This will allow organizations the ability to identify a single standard when accepting the Code as a single document, ANSI/ASSE Z359.1.

While a majority of the criteria within the product standards for the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code is prepared to create consistency and minimum requirements for products offered by manufacturers and distributors, there is also a sizeable amount of information that is relevant for the user's organization. In addition to this standard, ANSI/ASSE Z359.2, *Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program*, should be the first document that someone within a user's organization should become familiar. Also, there is relevant information within the product standards that provides guidance on the use and limitations associated with the specific product category. Manufacturers and distributors are also required to provide this information in the instruction material provided with the product. The ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code now includes all fall protection risks and exposures excluding material handling operations or sports related activities.

The interdependence of the ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards is key to their use as a Fall Protection Code. Although the equipment aspect of fall protection is likely the most visible element, all of the standards must be implemented to create a safe and truly compliant fall protection system and program. For example, training, fall hazard surveys and procedures are critical to safely identifying, evaluating and controlling fall hazards based on the hierarchy of controls. The ANSI/ASSE Z359.2 standard contains these items and should be integral to your overall program. Furthermore, it is becoming more common, and in some instances a requirement, that a qualified person who is commonly an engineer, design the overall system. This act of design includes selecting the system, ensuring strength of the anchorage(s), specifying equipment components, preparing use and rescue procedures, and verifying the implementation of general and system-specific training. Requirements for engineered systems are found in ANSI/ASSE Z359.6.

The standards in the Fall Protection Code are constantly evolving, and are revised on a regular schedule in conformity to ANSI requirements. ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 will be kept up-to-date as new standards and revisions are developed and published. The use of national consensus standards is voluntary. Please note that the revised Code requires that all products meet the current version of the applicable standard when purchased. Product in use when new standards or revisions to existing standards become effective can continue to be used until they are removed from service.

The ANSI/ASSE 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, IL 60068.

This standard was developed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the American National Standards Committee on Standards for Fall Protection, ANSI/ASSE 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 ANSI/ASSE Z359 Committee had the following members:

Randall Wingfield, Chair
 Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP, Vice Chair
 Timothy R. Fisher, CSP, CHMM, ARM, CPEA, Secretary
 Ovidiu Munteanu, Assistant Secretary
 Jennie Dalesandro, Administrative Technical Support

Organization Represented	Name of Representative
3M	Raymond Mann Judd Perner
American Airlines	Len Bradley
American Society of Safety Engineers	Jubal D. Hamernik, Ph.D., P.E. John Stephen Frost, CSP Bradley S. McGill Chuck Orebaugh Joey R. Junio, P.E. James Rullo DeForest Canfield Craig Berkenmeier, ARM Joshua Ockmond, CSP Jim Poage Dan Rossi Karl Guthrie Eric Patrick Gary LoPiccolo Brandon Muffoletto, CSP Delisa Calhoun Erik Arendall J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE John T. Whitty, P.E. Freddie Johnson Dustin Hawkins Warren Faber Hugh Armstrong Michael Bailey, P.E. Ken Mahnick, P.E. Allen Baughman Kevin Duhamel Randall Wingfield Dave Lough Timothy Healey Jerry Kucharski, CFPS William R. Parsons, P.Eng. Greg Small, P.Eng., M.Eng.
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Paul Clarke, CEng, MIMechE

Andrew Diamond, MInstP, BSc (Hons)

Dan Shipp

Eric Miller

Louis Renner, CSP

Steve McConnell, CSP, CIH

Cal Sparks

Matthew Zaffini

John Corriveau

Mark Benes

Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP

Rupert Noton, CEng, MStructE

Andrew Emmons, P.E.

Matthew Schneider, P.E.

Robert Kling, P.E., CSP

Adam Chapin

Rob Willis

Tim Bissett

Robert Golz

Greg Pilgrim

Gordon Lyman

Don Doty

Pamela Huck, CSP

Keith Smith

Rick Vance

Jeremiah Wangsgard

Jeff Bowles

Kim Hunter

Dan Henn

W. Joe Shaw

Arnie Galpin, P.E.

John Kemp

Kynan Wynne

Tyson Munford, P.E.

Clint Honeycutt, Sr.

Janice Honeycutt

Steve Sanders

Michael C. Wright, P.E., CPE, CSP

Mark Williams

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Sam Terry
Art Schneider

Loui McCurley
Cedric Smith
Richard Griffith
Tyler Griffith
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Catalin Anesia
James Mark
Scott H. Richert, CSP, ARM, ALCM
Chris Moemke, EIT
John Seto, P.E
Mark S. Kantorowicz
Robert Baker
Shawn Smith, CSP
Shaun Reed
John M. Cushing, Jr.
Simon Baughman
Basil Tominna, P.E.
Shawn Smith, MEng, CSP
Beverly Wooten Stutts
Matthew S. Uptmor, OHST
Kelly Streeter, P.E.
Keith Luscinski
Ken Young, P.E.
Ian Bevan
Patrick T. Nies
Will Schnyer
Daniel Gach, AIA, NCARB
Jason Kamman, CSP, CHST

Subgroup Z359.1 had the following members:

Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP, Chair
Kevin Goodwin, CSP
Marc Harkins
Dan Henn
Rupert Noton, CEng, MIStructE
Judd Perner
Dan Shipp
Cal Sparks
Beverly Wooten Stutts

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