

ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2020

The Fall Protection Code



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
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ANSI/ASSP Z359.1 – 2020

American National Standard

The Fall Protection Code

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Professionals
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American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.1-2020.)

The first edition of ANSI/ASSP 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. The 2007 revision was accompanied by new ANSI/ASSP Z359 standards for managed fall protection program elements, positioning and travel restraint systems, and rescue systems. Additionally, the definitions common to all ANSI/ASSP 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for the products and systems covered by ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2007, and the requirements of that standard have been superseded. This set of ANSI/ASSP Z359 standards is referred to collectively as the Fall Protection Code.

The 2016 edition of ANSI/ASSP Z359.1 introduced a change in regard to technical content and intent of the standard, not a revision of the requirements of the previous editions. The intent of this standard is to provide a key to understanding and applying the standards within the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection Code, as well as a single point of reference to define compliance with the Fall Protection Code. This will allow organizations the ability to identify ANSI/ASSP Z359.1 as a single reference when accepting the Fall Protection Code.

While a majority of the criteria within the product standards for the ANSI/ASSP 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/ASSP 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. The product standards contain relevant information that provides guidance on the use and limitations associated with a specific product category. Manufacturers and distributors are also required to provide this information in the instruction material provided with the product. The ANSI/ASSP 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/ASSP 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/ASSP 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/ASSP 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/ASSP 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 Fall Protection Code requires that all products have

been manufactured to the current version of the standard at the time of manufacture. Product in use when new standards or revisions to existing standards become effective can continue to be used until they are removed from service.

Normative Requirements: This standard uses the single column format. The normative requirements appear aligned to the left margin. To meet the requirements of this standard, machinery, equipment and process suppliers and users must conform to these normative requirements. These requirements typically use the verb “shall.”

NOTE: The informative or explanatory notes in this standard appear indented, in italics, in a reduced font size, which is an effort to provide a visual signal to the reader that this is an informative note, not normative text, and is not to be considered part of the requirements of this standard; this text is advisory in nature only. The suppliers and users are not required to conform to the informative note. The informative note is presented in this manner in an attempt to enhance readability and to provide explanation or guidance to the sections they follow.

Suggestions for Improvements: Suggestions for improvements to this standard are welcome. They should be sent to: American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068, Attention: Z359 Secretariat.

Revisions: The Z359 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made to the standard periodically (usually every five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant section number(s), the proposed wording, and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the Z359 Committee to process the changes in a timely manner.

Standard Approval: This standard was developed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Z359 Secretariat. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply (nor is it required) that all members voted for its approval. At the time this standard was approved, the Z359 Committee had the following members:

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