Subject: Z359 Standards no longer excludes construction and demolition operations from its scope statements.

The ANSI accredited Z359 Standards Committee recently reached consensus to make a significant change to future scope statements of its standards. The question below should address this issue and be of interest to SH&E Professionals working with fall protection/arrest hazards and exposures in the construction and demolition industry.

QUESTION: Is it true that the ANSI Z359 Committee recently voted to delete the exclusion of the construction and demolition industry from the exceptions section of the Z359 Standards? If the answer is “yes” then I think this is a very good move by the committee and is important for SH&E Professionals to be aware of since it now removes any additional concerns on application of the Z359 Standards.

ANSWER: The answer to this is “yes”

During a recent Z359 meeting, the revision of the ANSI/ASSE A10.32 Standard (fall protection in construction) was extensively discussed. The A10.32 Standard is written by the ANSI/ASSE A10 Committee for Construction and Demolition Operations. The concern is/was that the A10.32 references Z359, but the historic scope of Z359 excluded construction and demolition operations.

The Z359 committee reached consensus that the exclusion needed to be removed in order to be consistent with current technology and operating practices. The committee did reach consensus to change the scope of future Z359 Standards to remove the exclusion of construction and demolition operations. You will be seeing this change in future Z359 Standards.

However, the Z359 Committee is not intending to write managed fall protection standards for construction and demolition operations at this time since the ANSI/ASSE A10.32 Standard addresses construction. We do know from discussions with the A10 Committee that the current direction of A10 is to address construction fall protection management via A10.32, but refer back to Z359 for standards addressing equipment.

For more information about the Z359 Committee, the A10 Committee, and fall protection/arrest standards please visit:

www.asse.org/departments/standards/fall_protectionarrest_z359/

ASSE – Home of the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code