

# ASSE Tech Brief



February 2015

## **ANSI/ASSE Z359.15-2014 – BACKGROUND MATERIALS**

### **Safety Requirements for Single Anchor Vertical Lifelines & Fall Arrestors for Personal Fall Arrest Systems**

Title: ANSI ASSE Z359.15-2014 Safety Requirements for Single Anchor Vertical Lifelines & Fall Arrestors for Personal Fall Arrest Systems

Previous Versions: (N/A, New Standard: Approval Date of Final Action: 8/25/2014 Standards Action Publication Date: 9/5/2014)

#### **Scope and Background Materials**

#### **Safety Requirements for Single Anchor Vertical Lifelines & Fall Arrestors for Personal Fall Arrest Systems**

### **1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATION, EXCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes requirements for the design criteria, qualification testing (performance requirements), marking and instructions, user inspections, maintenance and storage and removal from service of single anchor lifelines and fall arrestors for users within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 to 140 kg).

**E1.1** Training, use, inspection and removal from service of single anchor lifelines and fall arrestors is also addressed in ANSI/ASSE Z359.2, which provides the requirements for fall protection program management.

#### **1.2 Purpose and Application.**

**1.2.1** This standard addresses minimum guidelines for the design, manufacture and testing of single anchor lifelines and fall arrestors.

**E1.2.1** This is a voluntary consensus standard. The legal requirements for protection against falls from heights are established by applicable regulatory bodies governing occupational safety.

**1.2.2** This standard applies to single anchor lifelines and fall arresters used in fall arrest applications.

**1.2.3** Before any equipment shall bear the marking Z359.15 or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all requirements of this standard shall be met through qualification and verification testing according to ANSI/ASSE Z359.7.

**1.2.4** Unless otherwise specified, the values stated in this standard are expressed as nominal values. Except for temperature limits, values, which are not stated as maxima or minima, shall be subject to a tolerance of +/- 5%. Unless otherwise specified, the ambient temperature for testing shall be between 35°F (1.6°C) and 100°F (37.7°C) and the temperature limits shall be subject to an accuracy of +/- 2°F (+/- 1°C).

**1.2.5** In this standard, values for measurement are followed by an equivalent in parentheses, but only the first stated value shall be regarded as the requirement. Equivalent values in parentheses are not considered the requirement, as these values can be approximate.

### **1.3 Exceptions.**

**1.3.1** The requirements of this standard do not address window cleaning belts and sports-related activities.

**1.3.2** The requirements of this standard do not address horizontal lifelines.

**E1.3.2** Single anchor lifelines can be used in vertical, sloped and horizontal applications. Single anchor lifelines are characterized by only a single anchor or anchor system being loaded when arresting a fall.

**1.3.3** The requirements of this standard do not address fall arresters used on horizontal lifelines.

**1.3.4** The requirements of this standard do not apply to rope adjusters used in positioning or travel restraint systems.

**E1.3.4** Requirements for rope adjusters can be found in ANSI/ASSE Z359.3.

**1.4** Interpretations. Requests for interpretations of this standard shall be in writing and addressed to the Secretariat of this standard.

**1.5** The requirements of this standard supersede any corresponding requirements in the ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007, Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems, and Components.

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**Links and information related to the Z359 American National Standards**

- [Official Memorandum of Understanding Between OSHA & ANSI](#)
- [Office of Management & Budget Circular OMB-A119](#)
- [Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?](#)
- [Standards History Article](#)
- [The Impact of Standards on Corporate Profitability A Summary of Research Conducted by ASTM International \(Reprinted with permission from ASTM Standardization News, Vol. 35, No. 7, copyright ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428, www.astm.org\)](#)
- [Position Statement on Consensus Standards](#)
- [What's the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?](#)

## **Examples of Recognition**

U.S. DOL/OSHA:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=standards&p\\_id=10927](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=10927)

[https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/oilandgas/general\\_safety/safety\\_and\\_health.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/oilandgas/general_safety/safety_and_health.html)

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/standards.html>

U.S. DOL/MSHA:

[http://www.msha.gov/Safety\\_Targets/Fall%20Prevention%20Safety%20Target%20Package/CD2/Understanding%20ANSI%20Z359.pdf](http://www.msha.gov/Safety_Targets/Fall%20Prevention%20Safety%20Target%20Package/CD2/Understanding%20ANSI%20Z359.pdf)

U.S. Department of Energy:

<http://esh-docdb.fnal.gov/cgi-bin/RetrieveFile?docid=485>

Article from ASSE:

<http://www.asse.org/professional-safety/pres/>

Private sector recognition:

<https://www.millerfallprotection.com/pdfs/ANSI-Z359Standard/Understanding%20ANSI%20Z359.pdf>

ELCOSH:

[http://www.elcosh.org/document/1808/d000646/Fall%2BProtection%2BRescue%2B--%2BAddressing%2Bthe%2BIssue%2Bin%2Bthe%2BUpdated%2BANSI%2BStandard.html?show\\_text=1](http://www.elcosh.org/document/1808/d000646/Fall%2BProtection%2BRescue%2B--%2BAddressing%2Bthe%2BIssue%2Bin%2Bthe%2BUpdated%2BANSI%2BStandard.html?show_text=1)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Safety/EM385-1-1%20Section%2021%20Draft3.pdf>

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Safety/EM385-1-1%20Section%2021FINAL.pdf>

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Safety/EM385-1-1%20Section%2031%20draft1.pdf>