The new version of the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code (V3.0) is now available. Use of the ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards in the Code continues to grow in the U.S., and global use is increasing as well. Interest in updates on use and recognition of the Code remains high.

The ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code provides an overall blueprint to help prevent injuries and illnesses that result when workers fall from heights. The Code and its included standards provide critical management systems requirements and guidelines for improvement of fall protection/arrest programs. Experts from labor, government, professional organizations and industry formulated this Code after extensive consensus building and examination of current national and international standards, guidelines and practices.
Falls: A Pervasive Occupational Hazard

Falls remain a leading cause of on-the-job injuries and fatalities. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, falls, slips or trips caused 668 worker deaths in 2012. Falls to a lower level accounted for 544 (81%) of those fatalities. Like many other hazards, addressing falls in the workplace requires a multidisciplinary strategy, such as that outlined in the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code, a benchmark standard that has been incorporated into many industrial fall protection programs worldwide. When addressing a project that involves fall protection, SH&E professionals must ask several important questions, such as:

1) Do we have the right people in the organization properly trained at all levels?
2) Do we have a policy in place that addresses how we are going to deal with fall hazards?
3) Have we identified the fall hazards that exist on our site?
4) Are we systematically abating those hazards in a prioritized way?

The ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code helps SH&E professionals answer these questions, understand the different types of fall protection equipment and systems, and develop comprehensive programs to protect employees who work at height.

General Standards Information

ASSE participates in the development and maintenance of key privately developed safety standards in two ways: by serving as secretariat for several standards committees and by serving on many other safety standards committees. These activities contribute to establishing the body of knowledge of the SH&E profession. ASSE’s Standards Development Committee is directly responsible for overseeing ASSE’s standards activities, which are conducted within the framework established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for the development of consensus standards.

• ANSI Essential Requirements
• ASSE Info on Standards Development Process
• Official Memorandum of Understanding Between OSHA & ANSI
• Office of Management & Budget Circular OMB-A119
• Position Statement on Consensus Standards
• Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?
• What’s the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?

National consensus standards reflect the insights of the final end users and the opinions of professionals who work at all levels of public and private sectors in technology development, safety and health, manufacturing, training, financial analysis, personnel and academia. This balanced perspective enables standards to be crafted in a manner that benefits and protects standard users.
Z359 Fall Protection Code V3.0

The Code includes the following standards:

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.0-2012: Definitions & Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection & Fall Arrest

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007: Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems & Components

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007: Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.3-2007: Safety Requirements for Positioning & Travel Restraint Systems

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

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.6-2009: Specifications & Design Requirements for Active Fall Protection Systems

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.7-2011: Qualification & Verification Testing of Fall Protection Products

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.12-2009: Connecting Components for Personal Fall Arrest Systems

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.13-2013: Personal Energy Absorbers & Energy-Absorbing Lanyards

• ANSI/ASSE Z359.14-2012: Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest & Rescue Systems

Documents Included in the Code


• ANSI/ASSE A10.32-2012: Fall Protection Systems for Construction & Demolition Operations


Historic Articles & Material Addressing Use of the Code

• Understanding the ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code (Miller by Honeywell)

• ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code, Revisions Strengthen Benchmark Consensus Standard (2007)

• How the U.S. Navy Incorporates the Z359 Fall Protection Code into its SH&E Practices (2010)

• Prevent Construction Worker Falls Campaign Information, Tools

• Interview with Tom Wolner & Craig Firl

• Interview with Randy Wingfield
OSHA Recognition of Z359

• Compliance with an Updated ANSI Standard on . . . (2009)
• OSHA Standards Addressing Training for Employees (2005)
• Standards Interpretations
• Walking-Working Surfaces & PPE
• Walking-Working Surfaces; PPE (Proposed Rule)
• Personal Fall Arrest System (29 CFR 1910.66 App C)
• Safety Standards for Fall Protection in the Construction Industry
• Subpart M: Interpretations & Clarifications: Fall Protection
• Sample Fall Protection Plan: Non-Mandatory Guidelines
• Safety at Heights: Lattice Structures
• Safety at Heights: Wood Poles
• Safety Standards for Scaffolds Used in the Construction Industry

Z359 has been cited under OSHA’s General Duty Clause*

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*This list reflects only a sampling of citations to Z359.