Subject: Z359.1 to Z359.18 Transition

ASSE is issuing this bulletin to clarify the testing and approval requirements for anchorage connectors manufactured and sold as compliant with ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards.

BACKGROUND: Previously, the requirements for anchorage connectors were provided in ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007. Now, the requirements for anchorage connectors are provided in ANSI/ASSE Z359.18-2017, effective August 13, 2017. ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 was completely revised and released as the “The Fall Protection Code” in 2016. Section 1.2.2 of the standard specifically notes the following: “Before any product shall bear an ANSI/ASSE Z359 marking or be represented in any way as being in compliance with any ANSI/ASSE Z359 standard, the requirements of the associated product standard shall be met. ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 is not a product standard and therefore, no product shall be labeled as meeting ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 after the effective date of this standard.”

There have been inquiries about the appropriate marking of anchorage connectors during the transition from the ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 to ANSI/ASSE Z359.18 because the effective dates of the two standards may not allow enough time for manufacturers to establish their laboratory procedures, fixtures and equipment. Time is also needed to meet the markings and instructions requirements for transitioning from ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 to the new ANSI/ASSE Z359.18-2017 standard. These items are needed to facilitate the qualification testing by manufacturers to the new applicable standard. The concern expressed was that, in the short term, end-users may not have access to anchorage connector products qualified under either ANSI/ASSE Z359 standard.

GUIDANCE:

- To assist end-users with access to certified anchorage connector products, and manufacturers with reasonable requirements within the ANSI/ASSE Z359 Standards, all anchorage connector requirements identified in ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 will remain in effect, and anchorage connectors satisfying those requirements may continue to be labeled as such until February 16, 2018.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

- The use of American National Standards is completely voluntary; their existence does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he/she has approved the standards or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standards.
- The Z359 Committee does not address marketing of products. The scope is the protection of workers falling from heights.
- Manufacturers and testing organizations have reported they are updating their laboratory procedures, fixtures and equipment as well as markings and instructions documentation to facilitate the qualification of products addressed by ANSI/ASSE Z359.18.