

ANSI®
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American National Standard

**Safety Requirements for
Personal Fall Arrest Systems,
Subsystems and Components**

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018-2187

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**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD Z359.1
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR
PERSONAL FALL ARREST SYSTEMS, SUBSYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS**

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

*(Not part of American National
Standard Z359.1)*

1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATION, EXCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking, qualification, instruction, training, inspection, use, maintenance and removal from service of connectors, full body harnesses, lanyards, energy absorbers, anchorage connectors, fall arresters, vertical lifelines, and self-retracting lanyards comprising personal fall arrest systems for users within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 to 140 kg).

E1.1 See Figures 1 through 29 for illustrations of the equipment covered by this standard. Equipment used in personal fall arrest systems is commonly referred to as "personal protective equipment" (PPE) in the literature of the safety field. Also see 2.11 for definition of capacity. The manufacturer should apply a quality assurance system such as ANSI/ASQC Q94-1987. See reference 8.6.1.

1.2 Purpose and Application.

1.2.1 This standard addresses only personal fall arrest systems (PFAS) incorporating full body harnesses. Whenever the term "system" is used in the standard it refers to a personal fall arrest system.

E1.2.1 See Appendix A for explanation of acronyms used within this standard.

1.2.2 This standard addresses equipment used in occupations requiring personal protection against falls from heights and applies to the manufacturers, distributors, purchasers and users of such equipment.

E1.2.2 This is a voluntary consensus standard. The legal requirements for protection against falls from heights are established by applicable regulatory bodies governing occupational safety.

1.2.3 Body belts, window cleaner belts, chest-waist harnesses and chest harnesses, even when referred to as body supports, are not addressed by the provisions of this fall arrest standard.

E1.2.3 For definitions of window cleaner belts, see reference 8.7.1.

1.2.4 Before any equipment shall bear the marking Z359.1 or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all requirements of this standard

shall be met.

1.3 Exceptions.

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard do not address the construction industry (SIC Division C), window cleaning belts and sports-related activities.

E1.3.1 See reference 8.1.1 for definition of SIC Division C.

1.3.2 Although personal fall arrest systems incorporating horizontal lifelines (as well as personal protective systems for climbing, man riding, travel restriction, work positioning, rescue and evacuation) may suitably incorporate components or subsystems specified herein, those systems (and components and subsystems which are unique to them) are outside the scope of this standard for personal fall arrest systems.

E1.3.2 See 3.1.4.

1.3.3 Variance from the requirements of this standard are permissible in isolated instances of practical difficulties when applying it at the user level, but only when it is clearly evident that an equivalent degree of protection is thereby secured.

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