

2008 Monthly ES&H Campaign: April

New ANSI Standards

Monday, 21st

What is ANSI?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has developed voluntary consensus standards in the United States for more than 90 years. Founded in 1918 by five engineering societies and three government agencies, the Institute remains a private, nonprofit membership organization. This organization was the first to address fall protection.

What is ANSI Z359?

ANSI Z359 "American National Standard Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components" was originally published in 1992 and revised in 1999. The purpose of this standard is to address the variety of equipment being developed in the rapidly growing field of fall protection. The Standard includes the following equipment: harnesses, lanyards (including self-retracting lanyards & lifelines), energy absorbers, anchorage connectors, fall arresters, and components of the equipment including connectors, rope, straps, thread and thimbles.

ANSI Fall Protection Standards

The scope of ANSI Z359 re-expanded in 2007 beyond fall arrest into other work applications and has grown from a single standard to five related documents.

- ANSI Z359.0 Definitions and terminology used for fall protection and fall arrest
- ANSI Z359.1 Safety requirements for personal fall arrest systems, subsystems and components
- ANSI Z359.2 Minimum requirements for a comprehensive managed fall protection program
- ANSI Z359.3 Safety requirements for positioning and travel restraint systems
- ANSI Z359.4 Safety requirements for assisted-rescue and self-rescue systems, subsystems and components

What are the changes?

ANSI Z359.1

Under the new standard, snap hooks and carabineers must meet the following:

- Gate face must withstand a load of 3,600 lbs. (up from 220 lbs.)
- Side of gate must withstand a load of 3,600 lbs. (up from 350 lbs.)
- Minor axis of a snap hook or carabineer, except those with captive eyes, must withstand 3,600 lbs.
- Tensile load for the snap hook or carabineer must withstand 5,000 lbs. (same as current)

ANSI Z359.2

The new standard clearly identifies the responsibility of an employer to adhere to the following:

- Identify, evaluate and eliminate (or control) fall hazards through planning
- Provide proper training of employees exposed to fall hazards
- Ensure correct installation and use of fall protection and rescue systems
- Implement safe fall protection and rescue procedures

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Communications

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ANSI Z359.3

The new standard includes requirements associated with positioning and travel restraint systems and addresses:

- Requirements for workers
- Work positioning systems
- Travel restraint systems
- Lanyards
- Harnesses
- Hardware

ANSI Z359.4

The new standard affects assisted-rescue and self-rescue systems, subsystems and components. An essential part of any fall protection plan is a rescue plan. The addition of this standard ensures that equipment used to rescue workers after a fall is just as protective as the fall arrest equipment itself.

The standard covers:

- Safety requirements
- General system standards
- Full body harness
- Self-retracting lanyard components

Resources:

[Capital Safety ANSI Z359 Changes](#)

[American National Standards Institute - ANSI](#)

Visit the Communications ES&H website for more information.