Z359 Committee
Fall Protection and Related Systems
American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
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Z359 COMMITTEE BULLETIN   **APRIL 2025**

__Question:__ Are manufacturers of fall protection equipment permitted to use digital access to instructions for products produced to meet standards from the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection Code?

__Answer:__ Current revisions of standards within the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection Code do not consistently allow for the sole use of digital access to instructions. For example, ANSI/ASSP Z359.14-2021 *Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems* states:

5.2 Instruction Requirements

5.2.1 Instructions shall be provided to the user printed in English at the time of shipment from the manufacturer. Alternate media may be used for the dissemination of instructions, but only in addition to, not in lieu of printed instructions.

However, digital access to instructions enables manufacturers to more effectively engage and interact with users in comparison to traditional printed manuals and guides. Digital access to instructions also offers several environmental, social, and governance benefits:

1. Paper consumption is reduced, leading to less deforestation and lower carbon emissions.
2. Waste generation is reduced as users are less likely to discard digital instructions compared to printed ones.
3. Inclusivity and accessibility are promoted, as digital information is easier to translate, and more readily incorporates assistive technologies to accommodate various learner experiences.

Ultimately, manufacturers are best suited to determine a suitable manner in which instructions are provided to end-users, just as employers are best suited to determine the most appropriate manner to ensure that personnel are provided access to resources suitable to their work environment. It is the intent of the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Committee to permit the sole use of digital access to instructions as an option to conform with standard requirements by revising language into new and updated standards.

As each subcommittee revises their standard, the subcommittee will propose language that will be ultimately approved by the full committee. This will allow consistent requirements to be used while modifying the language to align with the specific products.

For more information about the ANSI/ASSP Z359 standards, please contact Lauren Bauerschmidt at LBauerschmidt@ASSP.org.

For more information about the Z359 Committee and fall protection / fall arrest standards, please visit: www.assp.org/standards/standards-topics/fall-protection-and-fall-restraint-z359

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