

ANSI/ASSP Z359.2-2023

Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive
Managed Fall Protection Program

Part of the Fall Protection Code



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



PREVIEW ONLY

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ANSI/ASSP Z359.2 – 2023

American National Standard

**Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive
Managed Fall Protection Program**

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Professionals
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.2-2023.)

History: ANSI/ASSP Z359.2 was first published in 2007 to establish minimum requirements of a fall protection programs for employers to identify, evaluate, and eliminate or control fall hazards in the workplace.

The Z359 Committee believes all fall hazards can be controlled using this standard and the Fall Hazard Hierarchy of Controls detailed herein. The effectiveness of the Hierarchy of Fall Protection control measures decreases as reliance on human behavior and equipment increases. Eliminating the fall hazard or preventing exposure to a fall hazard is the most effective control measure. Preventing exposure to fall hazards may include modifying the structure, isolating an authorized person from the hazard, changing a process, substituting equipment, or using specific work procedures. ANSI/ASSP Z590.3, *Prevention through Design, Guidelines for Addressing Occupational Hazards and Risks in Design and Redesign Processes*, can be used as a reference for applying principles to occupational hazards.

Passive fall protection methods are generally considered a higher level of protection than active systems (but less desirable than hazard elimination) since there is little or no reliance on human behavior. Examples of passive protection include guardrails, covers over holes, fully decked and guarded scaffolds, and working platforms with guardrails or barrier protection. ANSI/ASSP A1264.1, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*, contains requirements for guardrails and covering floor openings. Safety nets are a method of passive fall protection but are unique in the fact that a fall occurs into the net. ANSI/ASSP A10.11, *Safety Requirements for Personnel and Debris Nets*, contains requirements for personnel nets. ANSI/ASSP A10.8-2019, *Scaffolding Safety Requirements* provides requirements for scaffolding.

Active systems involve the use of personal protective equipment. Travel restraint systems prevent a fall from occurring. Personal fall arrest systems allow a fall to occur, increasing the risk associated with impact forces, contact with obstructions and prompt rescue. Positioning systems may be used in conjunction with other active fall protection systems to further reduce the risk of the authorized person when accessing, egressing, or completing a task at a location.

Neither the Z359 committee, nor the secretariat, states that this standard is perfect or in its ultimate form. It is recognized that new developments are to be expected, and that revisions of the standard will be necessary as the state-of-the-art progresses and further experience is gained. It is felt, however, that uniform guidelines for fall protection programs are very much needed and that the standard in its present form provides for the minimum criteria necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive managed fall protection program.

Normative Requirements: This standard uses the single column format. The normative requirements appear aligned to the left margin. To meet requirements of this standard, users must conform to these normative requirements. These requirements typically use the verb “shall”.

NOTE: The informative or explanatory notes in this standard appear indented, in italics, in a reduced font size, which is an effort to provide a visual signal to the reader that this is an informative note, not normative text, and is not to be considered part of the requirements of this standard; this text is advisory in nature only. The suppliers and users are not required to conform to the informative note. The informative note is presented in this manner in an attempt to enhance readability and to provide explanation or guidance to the sections they follow.

Revisions: The Z359 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made to the standard periodically (usually every five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant section number(s), the proposed wording, and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the Z359 Committee to process the changes in a timely manner.

Interpretations: Upon a request in writing to the Secretariat, the Z359 Committee will render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear, citing the relevant section number(s) and phrased as a request for clarification of a specific requirement. Oral interpretations are not provided.

Only the Z359 Committee (through the ASSP Z359 Secretariat) is authorized to provide any interpretation of this standard.

Approval: Neither the Z359 Committee nor the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approves, certifies, rates, or endorses any item, construction, proprietary device or activity.

Suggestions for Improvements: The Z359 Committee solicits public input that may suggest revisions to the standard. Such input should be sent to the Secretariat, American Society of Safety Professionals, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

Committee Meetings: The Z359 Committee meets on a regular basis. Persons wishing to attend a meeting should contact the Secretariat for information.

Standard Approval: This standard was developed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Z359 Secretariat. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply (nor is it required) that all members voted for its approval. At the time this standard was approved, the Z359 Committee had the following members:

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AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD Z359.2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGED FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM

1. Scope, Purpose, Exceptions, and Interpretations

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 This standard establishes criteria and requirements for an employer’s fall protection program including policies, responsibilities, training, survey and identification of fall hazards, procedures, controlling fall hazards, rescue planning, program implementation, incident investigation and evaluating program effectiveness (see Figure 1).

NOTE: The intent of the program is that each fall hazard is identified, the fall hazard hierarchy of controls is used to evaluate controls, a control method is selected, a rescue plan is developed, employees are trained according to the control method and the specific work practice is documented through written procedures.

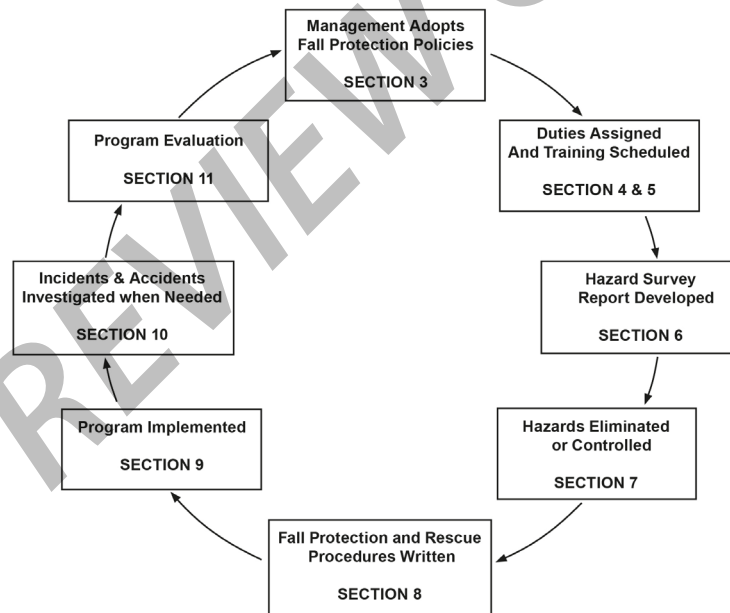


Figure 1: The Managed Fall Protection Program

1.1.2 This standard is for use by employers with employees working at heights using personal fall protection and rescue equipment (referred to as “equipment” for the remainder of the standard).

1.1.3 The scope of rescue in this standard is limited to employers and does not apply to professional rescue services.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum requirements of a fall protection and rescue program (referred to as “program” for the remainder of the standard) that will enable an employer to identify, evaluate and control fall hazards in the workplace.