

ANSI/ASSP Z359.4-2013 (R2022)

Safety Requirements for Assisted-Rescue and Self-Rescue Systems, Subsystems and Components

Part of the Fall Protection Code



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



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ANSI/ASSP Z359.4 – 2013 (R2022)

American National Standard

**Safety Requirements for
Assisted-Rescue and Self-Rescue Systems,
Subsystems and Components**

Secretariat

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

Approved August 25, 2022

American National Standards Institute

American National Standard

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.4-2013 (R2022).)

This standard, national in scope, was developed by the Z359 standards committee functioning under the procedures of the American National Standards Institute, with the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) as secretariat.

It is intended that every employer whose operations fall within the scope and purpose of the standard will adopt the guidelines and requirements detailed in this standard.

History: ANSI/ASSP Z359.4 was first published in 2013 and includes requirements established in ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2007. Individuals engaged in rescue operations in areas where exposure to a fall hazard exists will benefit from the information contained in this standard. This standard addresses equipment and performance criteria for systems, subsystems and components used in preplanned assisted-rescue and self-rescue where a fall hazard exists. Requirements for adequate training and thorough pre-planning efforts prior to the initiation of assisted-rescue or self-rescue operations address the needs of both the rescuer and the rescue subject. This standard establishes criteria for equipment marking, testing, care and use.

This standard is part of a series of American National Standards for fall protection for all occupational and non-occupational activities. It is not intended to apply to sports activities such as mountaineering, nor to specialized rescue efforts that may be associated with such activities.

Whenever fall arrest systems are used, indeed, whenever a fall hazard exists, it is necessary to plan for the effective rescue of persons who have experienced a fall event, whether it be a self-rescue application or assisted rescue application. Considering the diverse technical and environmental circumstances that can be presented to rescue personnel, development of a comprehensive rescue plan is integral to the safety of rescue personnel, the rescue subject, and the eventual success of the rescue effort.

The comprehensive rescue plan predicts circumstances that might require rescue activities, anticipates hazards associated with rescue operations, identifies methods to control those hazards, recommends the appropriate response measures and identifies the fall arrest and retrieval equipment to be used. The rescue plan may call for methods or equipment that are outside the scope of this standard, such as technical rope rescue, when such methods are reasonable and feasible and estimated to be the most effective rescue method.

Normative Requirements: This standard uses the single column format. The normative requirements appear aligned to the left margin. To meet the requirements of this standard, machinery, equipment and process suppliers and 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.

Figures: Figures provided in the standard are used to show basic concepts of testing, types of products, examples of labels or other information from the standard. These figures are not to scale. They are for educational and informational purposes to explain content within a standard.

Suggestions for Improvements: Suggestions for improvements to this standard are welcome. They should be sent to: American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068, Attention: Z359 Secretariat.

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 a clarification of a specific requirement. Oral interpretations are not provided.

Only the Z359 Committee (through the 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.

Appendices: Appendices are included in most standards to provide the user with additional information related to the subject of the standard. Appendices are not part of the approved standard.

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:

Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP, Chair
 Dan Henn, Vice Chair
 Lauren Bauerschmidt, MS Engr, CSP, STS, Secretary
 Jennie Dalesandro, Administrative Technical Support

Organization Represented	Name of Representative(s)
3M	Raymond Mann Steven McPherson
AES Indiana	Nick Hutchinson Michael Wright
American Contractors Insurance Group	Michael Overholt, CSP, ARM, CET, CRIS Mike Dickerson, CSP, MS, CRIS
American Society of Safety Professionals	Jubal Hamernik, Ph.D., P.E., DPE John Stephen Frost, CSP
Ballantyne Gear, Inc.	Flent Ballantyne Steven Ballantyne
Bashlin Industries, Inc.	Caleb Williams Bradley McGill
Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC	Lawrence McManamon
Bayer AG	Adam Chapin Chad McDanel
Boeing	Joey Junio, P.E. Segis Wright, CSP, SMS
Buckingham Manufacturing Company	DeForest Canfield Justin Drake
Cajun Industries, LLC	Troy Lake
CB&I Storage Solutions	Jeff Eggert, P.E. David Freeman
Certified Access	Dave Pasco Matthew Waskiewicz
Diversified Fall Protection	Kynan Wynne Travis Nelson, CSP, P.E.
Elevated Insight & Engineering Ltd.	Greg Small, P.Eng., M.Eng.
Elk River, Inc.	Mark Conover Delisa Calhoun
Ellis Fall Safety Solutions, LLC	John Whitty, P.E. J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE
ExxonMobil	Freddie Johnson Zachary Shanklin
FallTech	Zachary Winters Bradley Rohlf
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Graham Parr

Ken Mahnick

Daniel Pobst

Chris Heitkamp

Allen Baughman

Kevin Duhamel

David Lough

Andre Pelland

Heather Robertson

Matt Luedtke

Giovany Gil, MS, ID

Jesus Velasco Garcia

Paul Clarke, CEng, MIMechE

Steven Sum

Diana Jones

Kevin Denis

Philip Clemmons

William Parsons, P.Eng.

Graham Willmott

Rusty Brown, CSP

Steve Sanders, P.E., P.Eng.

Jim Kinateder

Kevin Goodwin, MS, CSP, SMS

Samuel Harreschou, CIH, CSP, PMP, CHMM

Evan Kirkpatrick, MS

Kathy Brown, MS, ASP

Russell Robinson, Jr., MS, CHST, ASP

Brandon Rohlf, CSP, ASP, CHST, CRIS

Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP

Rupert Noton, CEng, MIMechE

David Ivey

Jenna Pitcher

Fumi Hirose

Andrew Emmons, P.E.

Rob Willis

Tim Botti

Peter Cook

Stephan Gelin

John "JP" Jones

Justin Miller

Keith Smith

Jeremiah Wangsgard

Keith Luscinski

Jeff Bowles

Loui McCurley

Port of Seattle

Reliance Industries

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Robert McMurtray
Tim Mitchell
Dan Henn
W. Joe Shaw
Arnie Galpin, P.E.
Mark Winchester
Eileen Hoff, Ph.D., CHFP
Kevin Lord
Douglas Mercier
Ross Balquist
Charley Rankin, MS
Cedric Smith
Michael Wright, P.E., CPE, CSP
Mark Williams
Tyler Griffith
Gabriele Fusco, P.Eng.
Samuel Terry
Art Schneider
Shayne Powers
Sarah Baker
Matt McElvogue, P.E., RWC, RRO
Adam Maier
Scott Richert, CSP, ARM, ALCM
Craig Siciliani, P.E.
Meridith Conser, P.E.
Robert Baker
Robert Foster
David Kloewer, P.E.
Jason Walsh, CSP, SMS
Allison Cryns
Corey Dickson
Scott Wenholtz, CIH, CSP
Thomas Rizzi, D.C., CSP
John Cushing, Jr.
David Nedorostek
Charles Gum, CSP, ASP
Matthew Uptmor, OHST
Beverly Stutts
Andrew White
Kelly Streeter, P.E.
Chris Daniels, P.E.
Ian Bevan
Michael Cameron
Cody Rappoport
Edward Crowson

WJE

Zachry Group

Daniel Gach

Kurt Holloway, P.E., SE

Don Hurley, CSP

Independent Experts & Observers:

Flexible Lifeline Systems

High Engineering Ltd.

Lighthouse Safety, LLC

National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health

U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA

Michael Bailey, P.E.

Brendon Kerber, M.Eng., P.Eng.

Kaylie Lenz

Mathew Hause, BS

Mark Hagemann

William Zettler

Subgroup Z359.4 had the following members:

Bradley Rohlf, Chair

Laura Allen, ASP

Jason Bird

Andrew Bush

Paul Clarke, CEng, MIMechE

Kevin Denis

J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CPE

Aaron Gibson, MS, CSP

Mark Green

George Jerome

Thomas Kramer, P.E., CSP

Loui McCurley

Matt McElvogue, P.E. RWC, RRO

Douglas Mercier

Charlie Rankin, MS

Alex Stroshane

Beverly Stutts

Diane Waghorne

Mark Winchester

Michael Wright, P.E., CPE, CSP

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**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD Z359.4
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR
ASSISTED-RESCUE AND SELF-RESCUE SYSTEMS,
SUBSYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS**

1. Scope, Purpose, Applications, Exceptions and Interpretations

1.1 Scope

This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking, qualification, instruction, training, use, maintenance and removal from service of connectors, harnesses, lanyards, anchorage connectors, winches/hoists, descent control devices, rope tackle blocks and self-retracting lanyards with integral rescue capability comprising rescue systems utilized in pre-planned self-rescue and assisted-rescue applications for one to two persons.

1.2 Purpose and Application

The purpose of this standard is to establish criteria to ensure suitability of the equipment and methods defined herein for use in rescue situations where a fall hazard exists.

Rescue system elements, components or subsystems meeting the requirements of this standard may not be represented as complying with or used in personal fall arrest systems (PFAS) claiming compliance with ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2007 or other relevant Z359 standards unless the requirements of that standard are additionally met. The requirements of this standard supersede any corresponding requirements in ANSI/ASSP Z359.1-2007 American National Standards

1.3 Exceptions

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard do not address sport-related activities, rope access rescue techniques utilized by certified rescue technicians or other tasks that have established national consensus standards. However, this does not preclude use of equipment addressed within this standard for such activities where appropriate.

1.3.2 The competent person shall determine the suitability of equipment addressed within this standard for activities conducted in hazardous atmospheres.

NOTE: For a definition of competent person refer to the ASSP Z359.0, Z359 Committee Guidance Document for Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Restraint Standards, and for additional information refer to ANSI/ASSP Z359.2, Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program.

1.4 Interpretations

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

2. Definitions

Please refer to ASSP Z359.0, *Z359 Committee Guidance Document for Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Restraint Standards*, for definitions of terms used in this standard.

3. Requirements

3.1 System Requirements

3.1.1 A rescue system shall be used only if attached to an anchorage, or anchorage with anchorage connector, which complies with the requirements of this standard.