

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE Z359.14-2012 Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems

Part of the Fall Protection Code

VERSION **3**



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY ENGINEERS



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American National Standard

**Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices
for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems**

Secretariat

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

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Z359.14-2012.)

This standard, national in scope, was developed by an Accredited Standards Committee functioning under the procedures of the American National Standards Institute, with the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) 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.

The need for this standards activity grew out of the continuing development of a series of fall protection-related standards. The focus is to tie the elements of those standards together and provide the tools with which employers may develop the programs that incorporate those elements. This standard also brings together the administrative requirements of those fall protection standards. It should be noted, as in all Z359-series standards, that this standard applies to occupational activities. It does not apply to sports activities such as mountaineering.

Neither the standards 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.

The Z359 Committee acknowledges the critical role of design in influencing the use of proper fall protection equipment. Designs which eliminate fall hazards through the proper application of the hierarchy of safety controls are the preferred method for fall protection. Design deficiencies often increase the risk for employees who may be exposed to fall hazards: examples are (1) lack of rail systems to prevent falls from machines, equipment and structures; (2) failure to provide engineered anchorages where use of personal fall arrest systems are anticipated; (3) no provision for safe access to elevated work areas; (4) installation of machines or equipment at heights, rather than floor/ground level to preclude access to elevated areas; (5) failure to plan for the use of travel restriction or work positioning devices. To that end, this series of standards also provides guidance for design considerations for new buildings and facilities.

Basic fall safety principles have been incorporated into these standards, including hazard survey, hazard elimination and control, and education and training. The primary intent is to ensure a proactive approach to fall protection. However, the reactive process of accident investigation is also addressed to ensure that adequate attention is given to causation of falls.

The Z359 Committee solicits public input that may suggest the need for revisions to this standard. Such input should be sent to the Secretariat, ASC Z359, American Society of Safety Engineers, 1800 E. Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187.

This standard was developed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the American National Standards Committee on Standards for Fall Protection, Z359. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the Z359 Committee had the following members:

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STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATIONS, EXCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Scope. This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, qualification testing, markings and instructions, inspections, maintenance and storage, and removal from service of self-retracting devices (SRD's) including self-retracting lanyards (SRL's), self-retracting lanyards with integral rescue capability (SRL-R's), and self-retracting lanyards with leading edge capability (SRL-LE's). This standard establishes requirements for SRD's intended for use in personal fall arrest or rescue systems for authorized persons within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 to 141kg).

1.2 Purpose and Application.

1.2.1 This standard addresses self-retracting devices used in occupations requiring personal protection against falls from heights and applies to the manufacturers, distributors, purchasers and authorized persons who use such equipment.

The requirements of this standard supersede any corresponding requirements in either the ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 or ANSI/ASSE Z359.4-2007 American National Standards.

1.2.2 Before any equipment shall bear the marking Z359.14 or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all applicable requirements of this standard shall be met.

1.3 Self-Retracting Device Classifications. Self-retracting devices shall be classified according to dynamic performance (see Section 3.1.9) as follows:

Class A: Maximum arrest distance of 24 inches (610mm).

Class B: Maximum arrest distance of 54 inches (1,372mm).

1.4 Exceptions.

1.4.1 The requirements of this standard do not address material handling and sports-related activities.

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

(Not part of American National Standard Z359.14)

E1.1 See Figure 1 for illustrations of equipment examples covered by this standard.

E1.2.1 This is a voluntary consensus standard. The legal requirements for protection against falls from heights are established by applicable regulatory bodies governing occupational safety.