

ASSE Tech Brief



January 19, 2013

Tech Brief ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007 **The Standard is Published and Available**



ASSE, as secretariat of the Z359 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest, has continued to receive a significant number of inquiries related to the ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007 American National Standard titled “Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program”.

Due to these inquiries for information about the standard, we have put together what we call a “guide” for those with interest. The following information below should hopefully be of assistance:

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

Scope: This standard establishes guide-lines and requirements for an employer’s managed fall protection program, including policies, duties and training; fall protection procedures; eliminating and controlling fall hazards; rescue procedures; incident investigations; and evaluating program effectiveness. This standard was originally created in 1992, revised in 1999, and was revised in 2007.

The standard was originally published in 2007 and is pending revision. The committee believes a new and stronger version of the standard will be released during Calendar Year 2013.

Z359.2 is one of a series of safety standards that have been formulated by the Z359 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest. The Z359 standards serve as a guide to SH&E professionals, contractors, labor unions, equipment manufacturers, and all facets of business and industry working fall protection/arrests hazards and exposures.

The site to order the standard is below:

https://www.asse.org/shoponline/products/Z359_2_2007.php

The Table of Contents from the approved standard is below:

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It is important to note that this statement is in all ANSI/ASSE Standards:

“...The use of American National Standards is completely voluntary; their existence does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he/she has approved the standards or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standards...”

(Please note: This does not address the use of standard by government agencies either as a citation by reference or under 5A1 – General Duty Clause).

Below is from the Foreword section of the standard

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:

Below is from the first section of the standard

SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATION, EXCEPTIONS, AND INTERPRETATIONS

Scope: This standard establishes guide-lines and requirements for an employer's managed fall protection program, including policies, duties and training; fall protection procedures; eliminating and controlling fall hazards; rescue procedures; incident investigations; and evaluating program effectiveness.

This standard is for use by organizations where employees are exposed to fall hazards.

Developing and implementing a comprehensive managed fall protection program is the most effective method to: identify, evaluate, and eliminate (or control) fall hazards through planning; ensure proper training of personnel exposed to fall hazards; ensure proper installation and use of fall protection and rescue systems; and implement safe fall protection and rescue procedures.

This standard covers the hierarchy of fall protection, including eliminating fall hazards, passive fall protection, fall restraint, fall arrest and administrative controls.

Links and information related to ANSI/ASSE American National Standards

- Essential Requirements used by ANSI:

http://publicaa.ansi.org/sites/apdl/Documents/Standards%20Activities/American%20National%20Standards/Procedures,%20Guides,%20and%20Forms/2012%20ANSI%20Essential%20Requirements%20and%20other%20Updated%20Procedures/2012_ANSI_Essential_Requirements.pdf

- The links below will give information addressing how voluntary national consensus standards are used in regulatory settings:

<https://www.asse.org/publications/standards/docs/Dembystandardsarticle3-21-2006.doc>

<http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/docs/PositionStatementonConsensusStandards.pdf>

http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/other_documents/safeguarding.aspx?menuid=7

- There is an official memorandum of understanding between OSHA and ANSI. The link to the read the memorandum is at:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=MOU&p_id=323

In regards to 5A1 citations, Z359.2 is still relatively and has not been actively cited at this point. Z359.1 is used extensively. The most recent inquiry indicates that Z359.1 alone has been referenced 144 times at level of Federal OSHA.

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/generalsearch.html>

However, Z359.2 has extensive recognition with OSHA overall. Below is an example:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27302

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/construction.html>

http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/oilandgas/general_safety/safety_and_health.html

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/partnerships/national/power/sh_lattice_structures.html

Additional Resources

The following Z359 Standards are given away on a complimentary basis, but the rest are not free:

ANSI/ASSE Z359.0-2012, Definitions and Nomenclature for Fall Protection

<http://www.asse.org/shoponline/z359form.php>

ANSI/ASSE Z359.7-2011, Qualification and Verification Testing of Fall Protection Products

<http://www.asse.org/shoponline/z359-7form.php>

There are literally hundreds of examples of recognition of Z359 overall by government agencies. Below are some other examples of recognition by government agencies of Z359.2

From NASA:

http://smad-ext.grc.nasa.gov/shed/pub/gsm/chapter_34.pdf

From the U.S. Department of Energy:

<http://www.hanford.gov/pmm/files.cfm/msc-rd-43284.pdf>

From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Safety/EM385-1-1%20Section%2021%20Draft2.pdf>

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Safety/EM385-1-1%20APPENDIX%20Sdraft1.pdf>

http://www.usace.army.mil/SearchResults.aspx?affiliate=u.s.armycorpsengineersheadquart&api_key=6f039ba1a24c253cfd161a515467b636&format=json&Search=Z359&index=odie&page=1&FirstLoad=true