

# Standard/Regulation Information

## Qualification and Verification Testing ANSI Z359.7-2011

On October 3, 2012, a new ANSI standard for Qualification and Verification Testing went into effect. This standard is considered a fall protection umbrella standard, a standard which does not specifically apply to one type of fall protection product but instead applies to all products within the ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code.

ANSI Z359.7 requires all compliant products to be tested by an accredited lab. The new standard addresses the minimum testing and verification requirements of third party testing labs as well as manufacturers test labs as it relates to products with the ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code.

### **Which products are covered by the new Standard?**

The standard applies to all types of fall protection products that are manufactured and labeled as complying with the applicable standard within the ANSI Z359 code. Examples include full body harnesses, energy absorbing lanyards, self retracting devices and anchorage connectors.

### **Important Sections in the New Standard**

The important sections of the standard which are new or different than past standards include the following:

#### **Testing / Test Laboratory**

- Testing shall be performed on all ANSI Z359 compliant products or product groups.
- Accreditation by an outside agency is required for all labs performing ANSI Z359 testing.
- Test lab must be in compliance with ISO 17025 – General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.
- ISO 17025 requires:
  - Annual audits
  - Test structure and all measuring equipment must be in compliance and calibrated annually. Test stand must meet stiffness and frequency requirements. Test instruments must have correct level of measuring sensitivity.
- Testing can be done by one of the following:
  - Third party organization with accredited lab
  - At manufacturers accredited lab if witnessed by representative of accredited independent lab
  - At the manufacturers accredited lab and signed off and stamped by a professional engineer / qualified person.

### **Applicable ANSI standard compliance**

- Requirements of ANSI Z359.7 must be met before any product can be marked as ANSI compliant
- Applicable ANSI Z359 standard requirements must also be met.
  - Example: Harnesses must meet ANSI Z359.7 and ANSI Z359.1
  - Example: SRD's must meet ANSI Z359.7 and ANSI Z359.14
- Products must comply with the entire standard. This includes performance, design, markings, inspections, instructions, use and maintenance.
- Product must comply with the most current edition of the standard.
  - Example: Products that do not contain 3600 lb. gate strength connectors cannot be marked as ANSI compliant (current ANSI standards require all connectors to have 3600 lb. gate strengths).

### **Certification / Proof of Compliance**

- Certification for compliance to ANSI Z359 standards shall be made available

### **Qualification and Verification Testing Frequency**

- Qualification testing shall be performed on at least 3 units.
- Verification testing (performed after initial qualification testing is completed) shall be performed at least every 5 years if manufacturer has a registered quality program. Every two years if registered quality program is not in place.

#### *Summary of major points of the new ANSI standard:*

The requirements of ANSI Z359.7 shall be met before any product can be marked as ANSI Z359 compliant. The standard requires all products to be tested in an accredited lab. The testing shall be done to the most current ANSI standard, and the product shall meet all sections of the applicable ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code standard. Initial qualification testing as well as repeat verification testing is required. Proof of compliance to the standard shall be made available.

Effective date for new standard: October 3, 2012