

ANSI Standards Body and Standards Process

ANSI/ASSE Z359 standards are developed through a consensus process involving a representative group of users, manufacturers – including MSA, and other stakeholders. The actual Z359 family of standards were created by the American Society of Safety Engineers as secretariat under criteria provided by ANSI. The adoption of ANSI standards by employers, while best practice, is completely voluntary.

In February 2015, ANSI published a new 2014 edition of Z359.14, which is effective immediately.



What Has Changed?

The changes to the ANSI SRD standard are short but have a large impact. There is only one significant change to this standard - the requirements for product inspection. The 2012 edition of the standard required periodic factory authorized inspections based on the level of usage. This 2014 edition removes the requirement for factory authorized inspections. The standard still requires that all units be inspected by the authorized user before each use. Additionally, inspections shall be performed by a competent person other than the user at intervals provided in the following table.

Type Of Use	Application Examples	Conditions Of Use	Inspection Frequency Competent Person
Infrequent to Light	Rescue and confined space, factory maintenance	Good storage conditions, indoor or infrequent outdoor use, room temperature, clean environments	Annually
Moderate to Heavy	Transportation, residential construction, utilities, warehouse	Fair storage conditions, indoor and extended outdoor use, all temperatures, clean or dusty environments	Semi-annually to annually
Severe to Continuous	Commercial construction, oil and gas, mining	Harsh storage conditions, prolonged or continuous outdoor use, all temperatures, dirty environment	Quarterly to semi-annually

What to Expect From MSA and Impact on Existing Units

Currently, MSA instructions provided with units refer to the table from the 2012 edition which requires factory authorized inspection. The instructions clearly state that the factory inspection is only required by ANSI. Thus, with this new edition, factory authorized inspection is no longer a requirement for new units or for units already in the field. MSA instructions will be updated in the coming months but this paper stands as clarification on the topic immediately. There are no MSA products that require a factory authorized inspection provided a competent person inspection is being performed at least according to the table above taken from ANSI Z359.14-2014. Finally, MSA will still be offering factory authorized inspections for those who desire.