

ANSI Full Body Harnesses

ANSI Z359.11-2014 standard update



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 is completely voluntary.

General information about ANSI and this standard

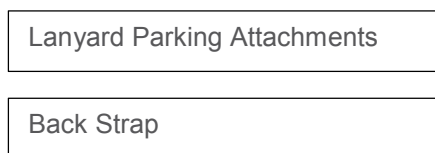
In August, 2014, ANSI approved a new standard - ANSI/ASSE Z359.11 - Safety Requirements for Full Body Harnesses. This standard went into effect in September 2015. “Effective” means that product manufactured after the effectivity date must be compliant with the new standard in order to carry the ANSI standard number on its labelling. This new standard supersedes the requirements for full body harnesses described in ANSI Z359.1-2007. Product manufactured prior to the effectivity date above may continue to be used until inspection shows the product is no longer fit for use.

This standard establishes requirements for the design, use, maintenance, and removal from service of Full Body Harnesses for users within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 to 140 kg).

What is new and what it should mean to you

There are several primary changes with this new standard that were already addressed with previous design updates of MSA harnesses.

- The first is a requirement for a back strap or waist belt on every harness and the second is at least one break-away parking attachment for the unused leg of a lanyard.



- Additionally, while all MSA harnesses have incorporated a load indicator for years, this is now also a requirement of ANSI.
- The actual test requirements have changed to add requirements to test hip and other attachment elements that were not previously required to be tested. The drop testing has also been changed to create more consistent impact forces from one design to another. In the case of stiffer webbing harnesses (i.e. Kevlar) this has allowed for lower impact loading. In many cases (i.e.) Nylon webbing, this has required harness designs to be strengthened to meet higher impact loads.
- The static test load requirement has been decreased from 5000 lbs minimum strength to 3600 lbs minimum strength.
- Finally, all harnesses meeting ANSI Z359.11-2014 must now include the following label. While this capacity is only recognized by ANSI, MSA has performed further testing to ensure our harnesses meet a maximum 400 lbs capacity under OSHA requirements.

ANSI Z359.11–2014
ANSI Z359 Recognizes the use of this
harness only within the capacity range of:
130–310 lbs.