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## **New ANSI Z359 Standards**

### *New ANSI Z359-2007 Frequently Asked Questions*

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#### *What is new about the ANSI Z359 Standard?*

The new ANSI Z359 Standard for 2007 has a new format. The Standard no longer places all aspects of fall protection in one Standard. The ANSI Z359 Committee is developing a family of Standards into a Fall Protection Code. This Code will include recommended work practices as well as new fall protection manufacturing requirements.

#### *When did the New Z359-2007 Standard take effect?*

November 24, 2007.

#### *Do I have to throw out my old equipment and replace it with all new ANSI Z359 now that it's past November 24, 2007?*

The ANSI Z359 Standard is a voluntary Standard so you are not required by law or OSHA Regulation to replace your existing equipment. However, you will want to replace your equipment, as it is removed from service, with the products meeting or certified to ANSI Z359-2007 Standards.

#### *What is the most significant change in the new ANSI Z359?*

There are many changes in the new ANSI Z359-2007 General Industry Fall Protection Code but one of the most significant may be the change to connectors. ANSI Z359.1-2007 requires all connectors to have 3,600 lbs gates. This means that all snaphooks and carabiners manufactured after November 24, 2007 will have minimum gate strength of 3,600 lbs (3.6 M or 16kN).

#### *Why is the 3,600 lbs gate strength important?*

The new ANSI 3,600 lbs gate strength is important because this new requirement is ten times greater than prior ANSI gate strength requirements.

#### *How will the 3,600 lbs gate strength help the user?*

Increasing the gate strength may reduce rollout issues when connectors are improperly side loaded by the user. Side loading is the misuse of a connector which places the forces of a fall or load on the gate of a connector. Connectors are not designed to be loaded at the gate (commonly referred to as side loading).

#### *Now that the gate strength is 3,600 lbs, can you tie-back on all lanyards?*

No, you cannot tie-back on a lanyard unless it is specifically designed by the manufacturer for tie-back use. Compatibility issues continue to be the same. Most connectors, snaphooks and carabiners alike, are designed to accept a load or fall arrest in the linear measurement lengthwise of the connector which is rated at 5,000 lbs (5M or 22.2kN). Connector gates are not designed to be loaded during positioning and fall arrest.



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*Does the ANSI Z359 Standard Fall Protection Code affect the construction industry?*

No, the ANSI Z359 Standard affects General Industry only. However, you may want to use fall protection products manufactured to this Standard due to the increased security of the 3,600 lb gate strength and other changes that may positively affect your company's fall protection program.

Primus offers a complete line of quality products to meet all of your safety needs. Check out our Tower Division and Safety Catalogs or call us today at (800) 435-1636.