

Z359 Committee

Fall Protection and Related Systems

American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
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SUBJECT: Testing inquiry addressing Self-Retracting Lanyards with Leading Edge Capability (SRL-LE) in the ANSI/ASSP Z359.14-2014 standard titled: Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest & Rescue Systems

QUESTION/COMMENT: As an end-user of fall protection equipment we are using an increasing number of self-retracting devices, in leading edge applications. Some of our workers have asked about using SRDs for leading edges with abrasive surfaces. Does the standard require SRL-LE devices to be tested over abrasive edges, like concrete?

ANSWER: The ANSI/ASSP Z359.14-2014 standard test procedures for SRL-LE devices requires drop tests over a sharp structural steel edge. Test requirements for concrete, stone, steel decking or other materials are **not** included in the testing requirements in the current version of the ANSI/ASSP Z359.14 standard, and testing of such equipment is **outside** the scope of the standard. The material of the leading edge may render some SRL-LE devices ineffective and in some cases, damage or sever the line

constituent. As recommended in the general operating guidance of this standard, if you are using equipment along any edges not covered by the standard, it would be prudent to discuss the work application with the manufacturer and to confirm that the use of an SRL-LE has been validated by the manufacturer for the specific application.

Any decision on the use of fall protection equipment needs to be based on a complete risk assessment and equipment selection process conducted within the parameters of the requirements listed in the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection Code and its accompanying standards. We encourage all readers to purchase the relevant standard(s) in the [ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection Code](#) to have this information readily available.

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

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.

For more information about the Z359 Committee and fall protection/arrest standards please visit:

[www.assp.org/standards/standards-topics/fall-protection-and-fall-restraint-\(z359\)](http://www.assp.org/standards/standards-topics/fall-protection-and-fall-restraint-(z359))

**ASSP – Home of the ANSI/ASSP Z359
Fall Protection Code**



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