

# Selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems



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*CSA Z259.17:21*  
*November 2021*

**Title:** *Selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems*

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*CSA Z259.17:21*

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*ICS 13.340.60  
ISBN 978-1-4883-3833-5*

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# Preface

This is the second edition of CSA Z259.17, *Selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems*. This Standard supersedes the previous edition published in 2016.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide criteria for the safe selection and use of fall-protection equipment and systems.

Significant changes in this edition include the following:

- a) information included on selection and use of post-fall rescue equipment, plans, and procedures.;
- b) enhanced the emergency and rescue plan identification requirements;
- c) equations are now provided for required clearance — vertical lifeline;
- d) new annex on examples of improper use and assembly of equipment, systems and components;
- e) new annex on sample site-specific fall protection work plan; and
- f) new annex outlining a recommended rescue flow chart.

This Standard does not supersede the authority having jurisdiction. The manufacturer's instructions and recommendations are part of the safe use and operation of the fall-protection equipment and systems.

This Standard was developed by CSA Group with funding support provided by the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Law — Occupational Safety and Health (CAALL-OSH), including Provincial and Territorial Governments, as well as the Government of Canada. CSA Group is solely responsible for the content of this Standard, and CSA Group and the funding bodies disclaim any liability in connection with the use of the information contained herein.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Selection and Use of Active Fall-Protection Equipment and Systems under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Fall Protection and the Strategic Steering Committee on Occupational Health and Safety, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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# *CSA Z259.17:21*

## *Selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems*

### **0 Introduction**

Effective abatement of fall hazards is complex, requiring skilled selection and assembly of equipment and systems. The chosen solutions need to be understood and properly used by workers, balancing protection from danger against the practical need to accomplish work. The optimal solution needs to consider the type of work, the frequency of access, the knowledge and skill of the workers, and many other factors. A solution that is effective for one situation can be cumbersome or even dangerous in another.

Other standards in the CSA Z259 series provide criteria for the design and functioning of individual components and systems, providing quality products to the marketplace. Available equipment and systems have various features, some of which may or may not be considered, tested, or certified to these standards. They may be combined in a wide variety of ways to address a wide variety of scenarios, with consequent variance in effectiveness.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide guidance for the selection and use of active fall-protection systems and equipment. It provides information, methods, and criteria to assess how equipment and assembled systems behave, and how solutions should be selected and implemented.

### **1 Scope**

#### **1.1**

This Standard specifies requirements for the selection, use, and application of active fall-protection equipment and systems as well as information on selection and use of post-fall rescue equipment, plans, and procedures.

#### **1.2**

The purpose of this Standard is to provide criteria and considerations for the safe selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems.

#### **1.3**

The selection and use of fall-protection systems as part of a fall-protection program that may include such elements as hazard assessment, work methods, purchasing, practices, training, maintenance, and inspection intended to minimize the risks involved.

#### **1.4**

The clauses of this Standard are intended to reduce risks, which are inherent in all active fall-protection systems.