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# Standard Terminology Relating to Hunting Saddles<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3543; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers terms related to hunting saddles.

1.2 This terminology is appropriate for use by hunting saddle development professionals, owners and institutions, testing firms, users and other practitioners in matters concerning hunting saddle test methods, practices and specifications which fall under jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment and Facilities.

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Significance and Use

2.1 This standard is provided to develop and maintain uniformity of terminology for the discussion and evaluation of Hunting Saddles, particularly with regard to quality assurance and safety factors.

2.2 The use of the terminology described will not alter the validity of data determined with specific test methods but provides guidance in the interpretation of test results (valid or invalid) and guidance in the selection of reasonable test procedures for those instances where no standard exists today.

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

**anchor**, *n*—a secure point of attachment for tether, bridge, linesman belt, carabiner or connector.

**bridge**, *n*—a rope, strap, or other material/device that is temporarily or permanently attached to the hunting saddle and connected to the tether.

DISCUSSION—The bridge is typically attached to the hunting saddle in two places creating a lateral structure that is the “bridge” between the hunting saddle and the tether. The bridge typically can slide through the

center tether connection to allow for horizontal movement of the hunting saddle and user. The bridge may or may not be adjustable with a device.

**bridge loops**, *n*—when present, that portion of the saddle where the bridge attaches to the saddle.

DISCUSSION—On some saddle varieties, this is component is nonexistent as the bridge is sewn directly to the saddle body.

**buckle**, *n*—a device to connect ends of belt or strap to form a continuous length.

**connector**, *n*—a device used to couple (connect) parts of the saddle system together.

**carabiner**, *n*—a connector generally comprised of a trapezoidal or oval shaped body with a closed gate with the ability to be locked (manually or automatically) or similar arrangement that may be opened to attach another object and, when released, automatically closes to retain the object.

**climbing belt**, *n*—a rope, strap, belt or system of straps that encircles the tree and connects to the Climbing Belt Loops or Saddle Body using connectors.

**climbing belt loop**, *n*—the connector on the Saddle Body to which the Climbing Belt is connected.

**equivalent**, *n*—alternative designs, equipment, materials, or methods that can be demonstrated will provide an equal or greater degree of safety compared to the designs, equipment, materials, or methods specified in the standard.

**failure**, *n*—load refusal, breakage, or separation of component parts where the ultimate strength has been exceeded.

**free fall**, *n*—the act of falling before the hunting saddle system begins to apply force to arrest the fall.

**free fall distance**, *n*—the vertical distance traveled by a user before force is applied to the hunting saddle system.

**hunting saddle**, *n*—the portion of the hunting saddle system which directly connects to and provides the direct support of a person.

DISCUSSION—The Hunting Saddle typically is composed of a Saddle Body, Bridge loops, Bridge, Lineman’s Loops and may include Leg Straps, and a Waist Belt.

**hunting saddle system**, *n*—the complete system which provides support to a user to prevent movement in the vertical direction.

<sup>1</sup> This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.18 on Treestands.

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**DISCUSSION**—The system typically includes a Hunting Saddle, Tether, Lineman’s belt, and associated connectors.

**leg straps, n**—the straps, which are integrated with the Saddle Body and are routed from back to front across the groin area or loop around the upper part of the thigh.

**maximum arrest force, n**—the maximum force acting on the body at the instant of the arrest of a free fall.

**maximum intended load, n**—the total load applied to a system in consideration of the user, equipment, and other loads reasonably anticipated to be applied to the hunting saddle system.

**positioning, n**—the act of supporting the user’s body with the positioning system for the purpose of performing activities hands free.

**positioning system, n**—a system compromised but not limited to a lineman’s belt and connectors to the lineman’s loops or saddle body that create a secure connection between the saddle and the tree in order to stabilize the users horizontal load while either working from a vertical position to attach platforms, climbing devices, etc. or during ascent/descent of tree or climbing devices.

**rated strength, n**—the minimum tensile strength specified by the manufacturer of a piece of equipment or component.

**rope grab, n**—a loop positioning device that travels on a rope tether or linesman belt and automatically, by friction, engages so as to arrest the movement of the connection.

**saddle body, n**—the main load bearing structure of the hunting saddle that may include the seat material, and upper or lower strapping.

**DISCUSSION**—The part of the saddle system that connects the hunter to the saddle system and makes physical contact with the hunter.

**safety factor, n**—the ratio of the Maximum Intended Load and the ultimate strength of the material.

**static rope, n**—a rope exhibiting relatively low stretch under load and having only a limited ability to absorb energy during fall arrest.

**tether, n**—a rope or strap or other material that is attached to the tree and provides anchorage for the hunting saddle system and is a part of the Tether Assembly.

**tether assembly, n**—the components used to connect the hunting saddle to the tree which may include a tether, rope grab, carabineer, bridge or other components.

**waist belt, n**—the strap or rope which is placed around the waist of the user to prevent the user from exiting the saddle body.

#### 4. Keywords

4.1 bridge; hunting saddle; saddle body; tether

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