SLOVENSKI STANDARD

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Osebna varovalna oprema za zaģļ ito pred padci z viġine - Sistemi za osebno zaģļ ito pred padci z viġine

Personal fall protection equipment - Personal fall protection systems

Persönliche Schutzausrüstung gegen Absturz - Persönliches Absturzsicherungssystem

Équipement de protection individuelle contre les chutes - Systèmes de protection individuelle contre les chutes

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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English Version

Personal fall protection equipment - Personal fall protection systems

Equipement de protection individuelle contre les chutes de hauteur - Systèmes d'arrêt des chutes

Persönliche Absturzschutzausrüstung - Persönliche Absturzschutzsysteme

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 December 2007.

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Contents

Page

Figures

Foreword

This document (EN 363:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 160 “Protection against falls from height including working belts”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2008 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2008.

This document will supersede EN 363:2002.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Introduction

A number of European Standards and draft standards have been published through CEN/TC 160 for personal protective equipment (PPE) for protection against falls from a height and other personal fall protection equipment since 1992 (see Annex A). Most of them are product standards that specify product requirements and test methods for components.

Such personal fall protection equipment is assembled to form personal fall protection systems. So far, there has only been one standard that covers system requirements: EN 363:2002 *Personal protective equipment for protection against falls from a height – Fall arrest systems*, which specifies definitions and general requirements to be taken into account when components are assembled to form fall arrest systems.

When discussing the terminology and definitions used to describe the general range of personal fall protection systems, the need for specifying the characteristics and principles for the assembly of all types of personal fall protection systems was acknowledged.

Certain types of equipment used in personal fall protection may be used for different purposes, and thus in different types of personal fall protection systems. In order to work towards a coherent and consistent set of standards, EN 363 was therefore revised to cover all types of personal fall protection systems as dealt with in CEN/TC 160. The revised standard describes characteristics and principles for the assembly of personal fall protection systems in general and of restraint, work positioning, fall arrest, rope access and rescue systems as specific forms of personal fall protection systems. For the benefit of the user, examples of a range of systems are provided, including figures used to illustrate the various forms of systems and their characteristics.

This European Standard does not define the use of personal fall protection systems, but the recommendations and examples given in this European Standard are based on a common practice of using personal fall protection systems.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the general characteristics and assembly of personal fall protection systems. It gives examples for the specific types of personal fall protection systems and describes how components may be assembled into systems.

2 Normative references

Not applicable.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Categories

3.1.1
fall arrest
preventing the user of a personal fall protection system from colliding with the ground, structure, or any other obstacle during a free fall

3.1.2
fall prevention
preventing the user of a personal fall protection system from going into a free fall

3.2 Systems

3.2.1
personal fall protection system
assembly of components intended to protect the user against falls from a height, including a body holding device and an attachment system, which can be connected to a reliable anchorage point

NOTE 1 Excludes systems for professional and private sports activities.

NOTE 2 The attachment system may include an anchor device.

NOTE 3 A body holding device may be, for example, a full body harness, sit harness, work positioning belt, rescue harness, rescue loop.

3.2.1.1
restraint system
personal fall protection system which prevents the user from reaching zones where the risk of a fall from a height exists

3.2.1.2
work positioning system
personal fall protection system which enables the user to work in tension or suspension in such a way that a free fall is prevented

3.2.1.3
rope access system
personal fall protection system which enables the user to get to and from the place of work in such a way that a free fall is prevented or arrested, by using a working line and a safety line, separately connected to reliable anchor points

NOTE A rope access system may be used for work positioning or rescue.

3.2.1.4
fall arrest system
personal fall protection system which limits the impact force on the body of the user during fall arrest

3.2.1.5
rescue system
personal fall protection system by which a person can rescue themselves or others, in such a way that a free fall is prevented

3.3 General terms

3.3.1
element
part of a component

NOTE Ropes, webbing, attachment elements and fittings are examples of elements.

3.3.2
component
part of a system at a point of sale by the manufacturer, supplied with packaging, marking and information supplied by the manufacturer

NOTE Harnesses and lanyards are examples of components.

4 Personal fall protection systems

4.1 General

Personal fall protection systems protect the user against falls from a height by either preventing or arresting free falls. They include;

— restraint systems;

— work positioning systems;

— rope access systems;

— fall arrest systems;

— rescue systems.

NOTE In general, systems that prevent a free fall are preferable to systems that arrest a free fall.

Characteristics

A personal fall protection system consists of an assembly of components that are connected either separably or inseparably.

A personal fall protection system includes a body holding device which is attached to a reliable anchorage point via an attachment system, which consists of one or more components that are normally included in the system in accordance with its intended use (e.g. lanyards, connectors, fall arresters, anchor devices).

Assembly

When combining components into a personal fall protection system, aspects to be taken into account shall include:

— suitability of components for the intended use of the personal fall protection system, taking into account all the different phases of use (e.g. access, work);

— the characteristics of the workplace (e.g. inclination of workplace, location of anchor device);

— the intended user (e.g. level of competence);

— compatibility of components (e.g. interaction between anchor device and other components);

— ergonomic considerations, e.g. by choosing the correct harness and attachment elements to minimise discomfort and stress to the body;

— information supplied for all components;

— the need to facilitate safe and effective rescue operations (e.g. to prevent suspension trauma);

— characteristics of the anchorage, e.g. location and strength.

Any component used in a personal fall protection system shall be designed and tested for the intended purpose, e.g. conform to the relevant standards.

Components may be used in various types of personal fall protection systems, as long as they are suitable for the specific purpose.

A rescue plan should always be in place when work at a height is started.

NOTE It may be useful to provide for additional information that gives advice on specific characteristics and requirements for the system.

4.2 Specific types of personal fall protection systems

4.2.1 Restraint system

A restraint system is a personal fall protection system that prevents falls from a height by restricting the travel of the user.

Characteristics

A restraint system

— restricts the movement of the user, so that he/she is prevented from reaching areas where a fall from a height could occur;

— is not intended to arrest a fall from a height;

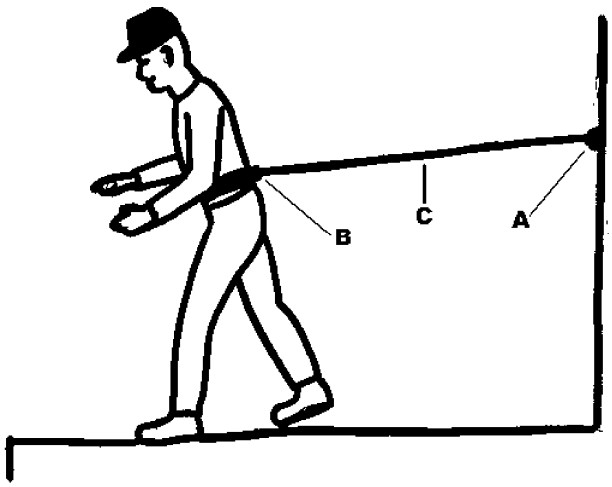
— is not intended for work in situations where the user needs support from the body holding device (e.g. to prevent him from slipping or falling).

Assembly

A restraint system shall be assembled in such a way that the user is prevented from reaching areas or positions where the risk of a fall from a height exists.

Any suitable body holding device may be used.

Any suitable lanyard may be used.



Key
A anchor point
B body holding device
C lanyard

Figure 1 — Example of a restraint system