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**PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT -
PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

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English Version

Personal fall protection equipment - Personal fall protection systems

Équipement 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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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2008 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2008.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

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