



---

September 30, 2016

RE: Fall Arrest Equipment from Different Manufactures

No reference is made in either OSHA 29 CFR 1910.66 for General Industry or 1926.500 for Construction regulating or governing the use of individual components of fall arrest equipment from different manufactures. However, OSHA explained in the [Hill Letter of Interpretation](#), individual components in a personal fall arrest system may be made by different manufacturers as long as they meet the compatibility requirements listed in 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(5).

It is a good practice to ensure that all components of a personal fall arrest system are compliant of equal standards. Werner Co., as well as other manufacturers, may impose restrictions regarding the use of other manufacturers' components within perspective engineered fall arrest systems.

Fall arrest systems assembled from components and subsystems made by different manufacturers is addressed under ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components, in section 7 paragraph 7.1.10:

*“The competent person shall ensure that systems assembled from components and subsystems made by different manufacturers are compatible and meet the requirements of this standard. The competent person shall consult the respective manufacturers and, if necessary, arrange the testing required by this standard before using such systems.”*

As well as in ANSI/ASSE Z359.6-2009 Specifications and Design Requirements for Active Fall Protection Systems, section 4 paragraph 4.4.2:

*“Equipment and hardware for all components of an active fall protection system shall be specified to provide compatible connections. Combinations of equipment from different manufacturers shall be permitted if the engineer is satisfied that the connections are compatible and that there is no dangerous interaction between them, e.g., loading of carabiner or snap hook gates to allow roll-out.”*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 and ANSI/ASSE Z359.6-2009 are national consensus standards and compliance is not required by law. Users have the discretion to determine if these standards are applicable to their workplace. They may also wish to consult their insurance carrier or their legal counsel regarding their liability and their company's liability if they choose to use safety equipment in a manner inconsistent from what is advised by the manufacturer.

