

## CSA Standard Z 259.1 Body Belts and Saddles – Work Positioning and Travel Restraint

### Scope and Application:

This standard specifies requirements for the performance, design, testing, marking, and instructions for body belts and saddles. Body belts and saddles are used as part of work positioning and travel restraint systems.

This standard covers equipment such as:

- a) lineman's body belt;
- b) body belts;
- c) miners' belts; and
- d) arborists' saddles.

This standard does not cover the following:

- a) boatswain's chairs;
- b) recreational equipment;
- c) firefighting equipment;
- d) other mechanical-type devices.

Body belts and saddles are not intended for use as body support in the arrest of a worker's fall, due to the possibility of injury or death resulting from:

- a) impact on the body when fall is arrested;
- b) fallout from a body belt;
- c) effects of extended static suspension in a body belt.

The term "body belt" is used instead of "safety belt" to avoid creating expectations that these belts could be used to arrest falls.

When using a work positioning system, fall protection is provided by a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness that meets the requirements of CSA Z259.10 Full Body Harnesses.

This Standard does not stipulate specific designs for body belts and saddles. However, this Standard does stipulate the design limitations necessary to consider for safe and durable service of body belts and saddles.

### Definitions:

- **Body Belt:** A body support device that encircles the body at or about the waist.
- **Fall Restricting Equipment (FRE):** A component of a fall restrict system (e.g. modified pole strap, rigid but articulated frame, or other such devices) that, when combined with other sub-components and elements, allows the climber of a pole to remain at his or her work position with both hands free and that performs a limited fall arrest function when contact is lost between the climber's spurs and the pole.
- **Fall Restrict System (FRS):** A combination of a work positioning system (WPS) and FRE. See CSA-Z259.14 Fall Restrict System For Wood Pole Climbing for further information.
- **Integral:** Not removable from any component, subsystem, or system without mutilating any of its elements or using a special tool.
- **Saddle:** A device between the knees and buttocks that, with an integral belt, supports the body and is used for work positioning or suspension.
- **Travel Restraint System (TRS):** An assembly of components that, when properly assembled and used together and when connected to a suitable anchorage, prevents a worker from reaching an unprotected edge or opening where a fall could occur.

A TRS is not intended for use as a work positioning system or FAS. Note: A body belt or a full body harness connected to a suitable lanyard and anchorage is an example of a travel restraint system.

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**Work Positioning System (WPS):** An assembly of components that, when properly assembled and used together, supports a worker in a position or location so that the worker's hands are free in the work position. A WPS is not intended for use as an FAS. Note: A lineman's body belt or harness, or both, in addition to a pole strap and spurs, constitute a work positioning system for climbing and working on a pole.

#### **Body Belt Classifications:**

- **Type I** – body belt for linemen. The belt shall include a strap with buckle; at least two D-rings that meet the requirements of CSA Z259.12 Class I Connectors; a strap keeper; and a body pad.
- **Type II** – body belt for work positioning and travel restraint. This belt shall include a strap with buckle; one D-ring that meets the requirements of CSA –Z259.12 Class I connectors, or a load-bearing element for the connection of other components; and a strap keeper.

#### **Saddle Classifications:**

- **Group P** – work positioning. These saddles shall have two D-rings mounted at waist level.
- **Group D** – descent. These saddles shall have front or side-mounted attachment points. The side mounted attachment points for group D shall not be mounted at waist level.
- **Group PD** – work positioning and descent. Hybrid saddles designed to be used for both work positioning and descent shall have both front-mounted and side-mounted attachment points. The side mounted attachment points shall not be used for descent.

#### **Saddle Components:**

Saddles shall include the following components:

- a) a belt (strap with buckle);
- b) thigh straps that encircle each leg. These might include a batten;
- c) straps integral to the belt; and
- d) Class I or Class II connectors in compliance with CSA Z259.12.

#### **Markings:**

The following markings shall appear on a durable tag (intended to last the life of the product) affixed to the outside of the body belt or saddle:

(a) Identification of the manufacturer; (b) D-ring spacing; if applicable; (c) size; (d) material; (e) date of manufacture (date and month); (f) model number; (g) proof of certification, as required; (h) "CSA Z259.1" and the Type or Group, as applicable; (i) intended application; (j) and the statement "WARNING – not to be used for fall arresting."

#### **Instructions:**

The following information shall be provided in English and French with each device offered for sale:

- a) the intended purpose of the device (including a warning that it is not to be used for fall arresting);
- b) any hazard warning;
- c) instructions on attaching, adjusting; and using the device;
- d) recommendations for maintenance and inspection of the device, including frequency; and
- e) a warning that if an inspection reveals an unsafe condition, the device is to be taken out of service until a competent person determines whether it is safe for use or should be destroyed.

This Standard also describes additional design requirements for body belts and saddles other than those that have been described herein. The Standard also covers Test Requirements and Testing Procedures.

**This bulletin contains a summary of excerpts taken from the Standard, for general information purposes only. This bulletin is not reflective of the complete requirements that the Standard prescribes.**

**Note:** *Manitoba Regulation M.R. 217/2006 Section 1.4 inconsistency:*

If there is an inconsistency between this regulation and a requirement contained in a publication, code or standard referenced in this regulation, the provisions in this regulation prevail.