

Personal fall protection equipment — Personal fall protection systems

ICS 13.340.60

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 363:2008. It supersedes BS EN 363:2002 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/5, Industrial safety belts and harnesses.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

BSI, as a member of CEN, is obliged to publish EN 363:2007 as a British Standard. However, attention is drawn to the fact that during the development of this European Standard, the UK committee voted against its approval as a European Standard. The reasons for this disapproval are as follows:

- 1. EN 363:2008 does not define “free fall”.
- 2. EN 363:2008 states (within Clause 4.2.2, Work positioning system): “In work positioning systems, the user normally relies on the equipment for support. It is essential, therefore, that special consideration be given to the need to provide a back-up, e.g. a fall arrest system”. Within the UK, attention is drawn to the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (SI No. 735/2005) and, in particular, Schedule 5, Part 2, Additional requirements for work positioning systems: “A work positioning system shall be used only if either — (a) the system includes a suitable backup system for preventing or arresting a fall; and (b) where the system includes a line as a backup system, the user is connected to it; or (c) where it is not reasonably practicable to comply with sub-paragraph (a), all practicable measures are taken to ensure that the work positioning system does not fail”. BS 8437:2005, states (within Clause 7.2.3, Work positioning systems): “If the planned method of work is for the user to be in a partly or entirely supported position, then a work positioning system should be used. The work positioning system should include a safety back-up system, in addition to the primary support, so that should there be an operator error or failure of the primary support, a fall will be prevented or arrested”.

EN 363:2008 states (in its Introduction): “This 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”. Advice on use is available within BS 8437:2005, Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Date	Comments