

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Industrial rope access systems

**Part 2: Selection, use and
maintenance**

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The following interests are represented on Committee SF/15:

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Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Australian Lightweight Vertical Rescue Instructors
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Communications, Electrical, Plumbing Union
Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations,
Queensland
Department of Occupational Health Safety and Welfare, Western Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF/15 on Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses. It is Part 2 of a two-part series, the series comprising:

AS/NZS

- 4488 Industrial rope access systems
- 4488.1 Part 1: Specifications
- 4488.2 Part 2: Selection, use and maintenance

The following Standards were consulted in the course of preparation of this Standard:

EN

- 341 Descender devices
- 567 Mountaineering equipment, rope clamp, safety requirements and test method

prEN

- 813 Sit harnesses and associated equipment

It should be noted that the application of this edition of this Standard has been confined to rope suspension work as defined. Although Part 1 of the series covers the specification of hardware for other kinds of rope access work as well as rope suspension, the Committee considered that existing industry Standards and procedures were adequate to cover the more specialized rope access operations pending further consideration as to what matters may need to be included in a future edition of the Standard.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

Industrial rope suspension work, to which the application of this edition of the Standard has been limited (see Preface), has only recently been adapted from the recreational field for industrial use. Whilst the recreational techniques have been found to provide an adequate measure of safety for recreational participants, the greater time exposure of individuals in the workplace, together with other factors related to occupational health and safety, require that additional safety measures such as the requirement for a safety line as well as a working line, be imposed.

Furthermore, pending a greater degree of experience with the rope suspension technique in the industrial setting, it is probable that occupational health and safety authorities will impose requirements and limitations on users which are additional to those envisaged in this Standard.

The purpose of this series of Standards is to specify the required performance of hardware and to give requirements and recommendations for its selection, safe use and maintenance. Issues such as safe work practices, and operator training and competency requirements which are outside the scope of this Standard may be covered either in State or National regulator requirements or in industry Standards. Typical of the latter are the relevant training Standards and core competency documents of the Industrial Rope Access Association of NSW and the Industrial Rope Access Association of New Zealand.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard**Industrial rope access systems****Part 2: Selection, use and maintenance**

1 SCOPE This Standard specifies requirements and sets out recommendations for the selection, safe use and maintenance of industrial rope access system components and assemblies, as follows:

- (a) *Selection* Aspects to be taken into account in determining the types of components of the system which would be appropriate to the envisaged usage.
- (b) *Safe use* Requirements and recommendations relating to the safe practices to be followed in the use of components and assemblies.
- (c) *Maintenance* Essential inspection, storage and cleaning practices which are required or should be observed.

Performance requirements for the components of an industrial rope access system are given in AS/NZS 4488.1.

2 APPLICATION The requirements and recommendations given in this Standard are intended to apply only to *rope suspension* work (see Preface). It is not intended to apply to any of the following:

- (a) Persons engaged in rescue operations where such operations are their primary job occupation.
- (b) Emergency services.
- (c) Recreational activities, including paid workers such as guides and instructors involved in such activities.
- (d) Other rope access work such as lead climbing or under-deck work.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1353	Flat synthetic webbing slings
1353.2	Part 2: Care and use
1380	Fibre-rope slings (of natural or synthetic rope)
1666	Wire-rope slings
1800	The selection, care and use of industrial safety helmets
2626	Industrial safety belts and harnesses—Selection, use and maintenance
4142	Fibre ropes
4142.1	Part 1: Care and safe usage
4626	Industrial fall-arrest devices—Selection, use and maintenance



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