

Subject **Self Retracting Devices in Leading Edge Applications**

Region:	USA	Language:	EN	Number :	TB0002	Revision :	D
Total Page:	1	Page n°:	1	First Issue:	05/2000	Rev. Date:	01/20/2014

In August of 2012, American National Standard ANSI Z359.14 on Self Retracting Devices (SRD's) became effective. The Z359.14 standard includes significant changes to the design and testing of "Leading Edge" SRD's (known as SRL-LE's) and requires manufacturers to provide new information in the user instructions and on product markings. The list below highlights these important changes introduced by ANSI Z359.14.

- a) The test weight is increased by roughly 30% to 282 pounds (128kg).
- b) The test edge material is very sharp metal with an edge radius of .005 inches (.13mm) or less.
- c) An energy absorber is required and must not be separable from the SRD device or lifeline.
- d) Testing is expanded to include "offset" testing that tests sliding of the lifeline along the edge.
- e) Specific testing includes a check on retraction when used horizontally to confirm no slack can develop.
- f) Markings on the device and use instructions have been expanded to provide advice to equipment users about leading edge work.

Because of these new requirements Capital Safety recommends that SRD users working around sharp leading edges use SRL-LE models that are qualified to ANSI Z359.14 for such use, and that all future leading edge applications are addressed using the SRL-LE device.

Capital Safety has evaluated its SRD product options against the new requirements. SRD models that Capital Safety previously designated as "Leading Edge" models remain acceptable for all edge applications. Other SRDs that include separate "add on" energy absorbers attached to the harness or to the end of the SRD lifeline must be limited to applications where they are anchored overhead only and not exposed to sharp metal edges. Use of these products with "add on" energy absorbers is acceptable around wood, finished concrete with a rounded edge, non-metal roofing materials, or aerial lift applications where the railings or other exposed metal edges have a radius is 1/8 inch (3mm) or more.

Note: Lifeline contact with an edge can present a hazard to users of SRD's. Provide edge protection (example: padding on the edge) for the lifeline whenever possible.

Current leading edge rated models (SRL-LE) include: DBI-SALA Nano-Lok Edge models, Ultra-Lok 3504422 and 3504422C* (15', 4.5m), 3504500 and 3504500C* (30', 9m), 3504600 and 3504600C* (55', 16.7m)) and Protecta 3590540 and 3590541* (20', 6m).

* Canadian CSA standard compliant.

If you have any queries of how this will affect you directly please contact our Technical Services Department for assistance: website@capitalsafety.com



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