

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Industrial fall-arrest systems and
devices**

Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance

AS/NZS 1891.4:2000

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF/15, Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 July 2000 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 31 July 2000. It was published on 21 August 2000.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/15:

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance

Originated in Australia as AS 2626—1983 and AS 4626—1993.
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF/15, Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses, to supersede—

AS 2626—1983, Industrial safety belts and harnesses—Selection, use and maintenance;

AS 4626—1993, Industrial fall-arrest devices—Selection, use and maintenance; and

NZS 5811.2—1981, Industrial safety belts and harnesses, Part 2: Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of safety belts and harnesses;

to become Part 4 of a series of Standards dealing with industrial fall-arrest systems and devices. The other Standards in the series are:

AS/NZS

1891 Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices

1891.1 Part 1: Safety belts and harnesses

1891.2(Int) Part 2: Horizontal lifeline and rail systems

1891.3 Part 3: Fall-arrest devices

The Standard contains a considerable number of technical up-dates and additions to the material in the superseded Standards to bring it into line with the provisions of AS/NZS 1891, Parts 1, 2 and 3. The principal additions are as follows:

- (a) Use of energy absorbing devices to limit peak fall-arrest loads on users to 6 kN.
- (b) All detail relating to horizontal life lines and rails.
- (c) Warnings related to the use of fall-arrest devices with anchorage lines extended laterally.
- (d) Determination of fall distance and fall clearance.

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.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in footnotes to figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard
Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices

Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements and sets out recommendations for the selection, safe use and maintenance of industrial fall-arrest systems and devices based on the use of safety harnesses (including belts), horizontal life lines and rails, fall-arrest devices, and associated lanyards, connectors, anchorages and fittings, as follows:

- (a) *Selection* Requirements and recommendations for 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* Requirements and recommendations for inspection, storage, servicing and cleaning practices.

Performance requirements for the various systems and components covered by this Standard are specified in AS/NZS 1891, Parts 1, 2 and 3.

NOTE: This Standard provides guidance for the selection of equipment and safe use procedures for some but not necessarily all forms of height protection or all of the circumstances under which such equipment and procedures are used.

1.2 OBJECTIVE AND PRINCIPLES

The objective of this Standard is to provide users of fall-arrest systems and devices with requirements and recommendations relating to their selection, use and maintenance.

The principles on which these requirements and recommendations are based, are summarized as follows:

- (a) Any person at risk of a potentially injury producing fall shall be secured by an appropriate fall-arrest system.
- (b) A person suffering a fall when secured by a fall-arrest system shall—
 - (i) be subjected to an arresting force not exceeding 6 kN;
 - (ii) be wearing equipment which will distribute fall-arrest forces over the body in a way which will minimize the possibility of injury; and
 - (iii) be connected to a system which will avoid the user reaching ground or striking any other obstacle that will cause injury, and will be maintained in a suitable post fall-arrest attitude for rescue purposes.