AS 2626—1983

Australian Standard®

Industrial safety belts and harnesses—Selection, use and maintenance

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee SF/15, Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 11 April 1983 and published on 8 August 1983.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/15:

Association of Cleaning Contractors of Australia

Broken Hill Mining Managers Association

Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia

Confederation of Australian Industry

Department of Industrial Affairs and Employment, S.A.

Department of Industrial Relations, N.S.W.

Department of Labour and Industry, Tas.

Department of Labour and Industry, Vic.

Department of Labour and Industry, W.A.

Department of Labour and Relations, Qld

Electricity Supply Association of Australia

Energy Authority of New South Wales

Master Builders Federation of Australia Incorporated

Safety Institute of Australia

State Electricity Commission of Queensland

State Electricity Commission of Victoria

Telecom Australia

This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 81224.

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First published 1983

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7262 3047 2

PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses under the authority of the Safety Standards Board.

It was developed following reports of misuse and abuse of industrial safety belts and harnesses and requests for publication of authoritative guidelines.

The standard identifies matters considered essential to the safe use of safety belts and harnesses, and sets out appropriate recommendations for proper selection, use and maintenance. Aspects covered include the following:

(a) Factors to be taken into account in the selection of the style and type of device to be used.

(b) Importance of adequate type and position of anchorage device.

(c) Necessity for all components, e.g. D–ring and snap hook, to be compatible and safe for use with each other.

(d) Correct methods of use.

(e) Need for proper inspection, storage and maintenance of belts and harnesses.

During preparation of this standard, reference was made to NZS 5811, Part 2, and to BS 1397 and BS 5845. Acknowledgment is made of the assistance received therefrom.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BELTS AND HARNESSES—SELECTION, USE AND MAINTENANCE

1 SCOPE. This standard sets out recommendations on matters considered essential to the safe use of industrial safety belts and harness assemblies. It gives guidance on —

(a) selection .... aspects to be taken into account in determining the type of belt or harness assemblies appropriate to the envisaged usage;

(b) use .... safe practices to be followed in the use of the different types of assemblies; and

(c) maintenance .... essential inspection, storage and cleaning practices to be observed.

The standard does not include requirements for the design, performance or testing of belts and harnesses; these are covered in AS 1891.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1891	Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses
BS 5062	Self-locking Safety Anchorages for Industrial Use
BS 5845	Specification for Permanent Anchors for Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses

3 SELECTION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BELT OR HARNESS ASSEMBLIES

3.1 General. It is important that full investigations be conducted before purchase of safety belts or harness assemblies in order to identify the aspects of use and to determine the type of belt or harness likely to suit the type of work and the environmental conditions.

The type and position of the structural anchorage, the length of the safety line and the need/desirability of also using self-locking safety devices or shock absorbers will need to be determined before the selection of the appropriate belt or harness.

In the selection of a safety belt or safety harness for any particular task, care should be taken to ensure that the equipment gives the wearer, as far as it is compatible with safety, the maximum degree of comfort, freedom of movement and, in the event of falling, the greatest possible security against injury either —

(a) from impact with the ground or with the surrounding structures; or

(b) from the belt or harness as a result of a suddenly arrested fall.

It is strongly recommended that, where the equipment is to be attached to a fixed line or anchorage and where a choice of appliance is possible, a harness incorporating used.

3.2 Designation of Types of Safety Belts and Harness Assemblies. The wearer and purchaser should be aware of the respective design and use limitations of the different types of safety belts and harness assemblies.

NOTE: Reference should be made to AS 1891 for design and manufacturing requirements and for maximum free-fall limitations of the various assemblies.

For the purpose of this standard, the assemblies and attachments can be described generally as follows:

(a) *Pole safety belt.* Designed for use by linesmen and others who are required to work on poles or in similar situations where the body support is generally under continuous load.

It consists of a body belt widened at the back with a pole strap coupled on at the side position, so that the belt can be used as a means of continuous support. The pole strap may either be fixed at one end or be completely removable.

(b) *General purpose safety belt.* Designed for general use in industry where there is a risk of falling and where there is a suitable anchorage for attachment of a safety line to limit the wearer's possible free fall to 0.6m.

It consists of a body belt provided with one or more D-rings for attachment to a safety line or anchorage.Shoulder straps may be fitted to increase comfort.

(c) *General purpose safety harness.* Designed for general use in industry where there is a risk of falling and where there is a suitable anchorage for attachment of a safety line to limit the wearer's possible free fall to 1.8m.

It usually consists of a body belt or other horizontal straps, with shoulder and leg straps to spread the load over the body and to prevent the wearer's falling out of the harness. One or more D-rings are suitably positioned for attachment to a safety line.

(d) *Safety harness for confined spaces and hazardous areas.* Designed to be worn by persons working in confined spaces where there is a risk of being overcome by noxious gases and fumes, or when working in coal bunkers, grain silos and the like where there is a danger of falling or immersion in the material being handled. It is designed for use with a safety line where the limit of free fall will not exceed 1.8m or for use with a rescue line where there is no risk of free fall.

It is similar in design to a general purpose safety harness and has the D-rings mounted so that the wearer will remain in an upright position while being lifted with a rescue line.