

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Personal equipment for protection
against falls — Rope access systems**

Part 2: Code of practice



AS/NZS ISO 22846.2:2020

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- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Lightweight Vertical Rescue Instructors
- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association
- Australian Rope Access Association
- Better Regulation Division
- Business New Zealand
- Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union — Electrical Division
- Electrical Engineers Association of NZ
- Engineers Australia
- Facility Management Association of Australia
- IANZ
- Industrial Rope Access Association of New Zealand
- IRATA Australia
- New Zealand Arboricultural Association
- Roofing Industry Association of NSW
- Transport for NSW
- Working at Height Association
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-015, Industrial Height Safety Equipment, to supersede AS/NZS 4488.2:1997, *Industrial rope access systems, Part 2: Selection, use and maintenance*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide recommendations and guidance on the use of rope access methods for work at height and expands on the fundamental principles given in AS/NZS [ISO 22846.1](#), in conjunction with which it is intended to be used. It is intended for use by employers, employees and self-employed persons who use rope access methods, by those commissioning rope access work and by rope access associations.

This Standard is applicable to the use of rope access methods in any situation where ropes are used as the primary means of access, egress or support and as the primary means of protection against a fall, on both man-made and natural features.

This Standard is not intended to apply to the use of rope access methods for leisure activities, arboriculture, general steeplejack methods, emergency personal evacuation or to the use of rope rescue (line rescue) techniques by emergency services for rescue work or for rescue training. Nevertheless, individuals engaged in these and similar activities can benefit from the advice given in this Standard.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 22846-2:2012, *Personal equipment for protection against falls — Rope access systems — Part 2: Code of practice*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text “this part of ISO 22846” should read “this Australian/New Zealand Standard”.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

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The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 22846-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Personal equipment for protection against falls*.

ISO 22846 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Personal equipment for protection against falls — Rope access systems*:

- *Part 1: Fundamental principles for a system of work*
- *Part 2: Code of practice*

Introduction

ISO 22846 (all parts) sets out important criteria for the application of rope access systems for industrial purposes.

ISO 22846-1 sets out fundamental principles; this part of ISO 22846 expands on these, giving recommendations for planning and management, operative competence and responsibilities of personnel, supervision, the selection, use and care of equipment, and advice on how to implement a safe system of work.

Rope access is a method of working at height, typically using synthetic fibre kernmantel ropes and associated equipment, used to gain access to, be supported at, and as a means of egress from, a place of work.

The application of rope access methods are regarded as a complete system, in which planning, competence and suitable equipment are equally important. The malfunction or removal of any component in the system can weaken the operation or prevent the system from operating properly.

This part of ISO 22846 is intended for use by all persons concerned with the use of rope access, including operatives, specifiers, managers, rope access supervisors, purchasing personnel, trainers, clients and regulatory authorities. Users are reminded always to take into account the entire system and not just the component parts.

To ensure a rope access system operates correctly, at least the following factors are important:

- system management and planning;
- competence of the operatives and correct team composition;
- equipment selection, use and maintenance;
- proper organization and execution of working methods.

There can also be other issues to consider, depending upon the nature and location of the work, the competence and experience of operatives and possible local or regional legal requirements.

A failure or shortcoming in any of the above can render the entire system deficient.

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1 Scope

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2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

aid climbing

method of progression in suspension, either by moving from one fixed anchor to another or by the use of moveable anchors or anchor points

2.2

anchor

fixture or place for the attachment of lines or persons

2.3

anchor line

flexible rope line connected, at one end at least, to an anchor so as to provide a means of support or other safeguard for a person

Note 1 to entry: An anchor line may be a working line or a safety line.

2.4

anchor point

attachment point at an anchor for anchor lines or persons

2.5

anchor sling

sling, strop or lanyard made from textiles, wire rope or chain, which is used to provide an anchor point, such as for anchor lines, to anchors to which it is not possible to connect directly

2.6

ascender

rope adjustment device which, whenever attached to an anchor line of appropriate type and diameter, locks under load in one direction and slides freely in the opposite direction