

This is a brief summary of the contents of the relevant SANS standard. The intention of the summary is to make easily understandable to product users and management the otherwise complex contents of the standard. Only a selection of content that may be useful to the user or management is included here. A complete copy of the relevant standard can be purchased at www.sabs.co.za

Summary

1. Scope: Specifies material requirements and testing of adjustable and non-adjustable lanyards used as connecting elements or components in fall arrest systems as specified in SANS 50363.
2. Other types of lanyards (for work positioning or work restraint) are specified in SANS 50358.
3. Definition of a lanyard: A connecting element or component of a fall arrest system. May be of synthetic fibre rope, wire rope, webbing or chain.
4. Definition of length of lanyard: Length in metres between load bearing ends measured in an unloaded but taut condition. For example, from harness attachment point to end of hook.
5. Definition of termination of lanyard: The ready to use end of a lanyard. A connector, eye or loop.
6. Definition of connector: A connecting element or component of a fall arrest system, usually a carabiner or double action hook.
7. Construction of lanyards: Both ends must be suitably terminated. The length of the lanyard, including energy absorber and connectors, must not exceed 2 meters.
8. Materials - fibre ropes and webbing lanyards: Must be made from virgin filament or multifilament synthetic fibres suitable for their intended use, with a filament breaking tenacity of at least 0,6 N/tex.
9. Materials - wire rope lanyards: Must be made from steel, the ferrules from ductile metallic material, and wire rope lanyards must be either stainless steel or galvanised.
10. Static strength of lanyards: Lanyards made from synthetic fibre ropes or webbing must sustain a force of at least 22kN (approximately 2200kg) in a static test without tearing or separating of any component.
11. Static strength of lanyards: Lanyards made from steel wire rope must sustain a force of at least 15kN (approximately 1500kg) in a static test without tearing or separating of any component.

Reference: SANS 50354:2003 Personal protective equipment against falls from a height – Lanyards