

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](http://www.sabs.co.za)

### Summary

1. Scope: The standard applies to belt and lanyards manufactured for the purposes of either work positioning or restraint, and specifies material requirements and associated testing.
2. Definition of work positioning equipment: Equipment designed to secure the user safely in position at the point of work. Often used in conjunction with a fall arrest system.
3. Definition of restraint equipment: Equipment designed to prevent the user from ever reaching a position where a fall could occur. Negates the need for use of a fall arrest system.
4. Definition of attachment element: A load bearing element provided for the attachment of other components.
5. Definition of component: An integral part of the work positioning or restraint system, including body supports (waist belts), work positioning lanyards and restraint lanyards.
6. Definition of work positioning lanyard: A component of a work positioning system connecting a waist belt to an anchor point or to a structure by encircling it, as a means of support.
7. Design: A waist belt must be comfortable, adjustable, with webbing not less than 43mm wide (restraint purposes) or 80mm wide (work positioning) and, where used for work positioning must have at least one attachment point suitable for a load bearing component.
8. Involuntary release of an element of the work positioning system must not be able to occur.
9. Design: Where a waist belt is fitted with back support (kidney belt) it must not inhibit arm or leg movement, must cover more than half the waist circumference and must be at least 100mm high for a length of 200mm centred on the users spine.
10. Materials: Webbing and yarn used must be virgin filament or multifilament synthetic fibres with a breaking tenacity of at least 0,6 N/tex.
11. Materials: Webbing used in the manufacture of a work positioning lanyard must have a minimum breaking force of 22kN (approximately 2200kg).
12. Static strength test: Work positioning system (waist belt and work positioning lanyard) must withstand a load of 15kN (approximately 1500kg) for three minutes.
13. Dynamic test: A work positioning system with a one metre work positioning strap is fitted to a 100kg dummy. The dummy is dropped through the one metre fall and must not be released by the system.

Reference: SANS 50358:2007 Personal protective equipment against falls from a height – Belts for work positioning and restraint