

# CSA Standard Updates for Self-Retracting Devices



An MSA White Paper

*Independent, global organizations, such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in the U.S. and the Canadian Standard Association (CSA Group), are responsible for developing standards, as well as testing, inspecting, and certifying products and services. The new CSA Z259.2.2-17 for self-retracting devices (SRDs) went into effect August 1, 2019.*

*This paper outlines and highlights key components of the newest edition of the standards so you can take a look at where you stand and, if necessary, make changes with your PPE or safety program.*

## Highlights of Revised Standards CSA Z259.2.2-17 (SRDs)

What Changed (*please refer to complete standard for details*)

- The term “personal fall arrest systems” was replaced with “fall-protection systems.”
- The definitions for “lifeline” and “arrest distance” were revised, and seven new definitions were added, including “peak force,” “performance factor,” and “fall arrest indicator.” (*Please refer to the standard for full definitions.*)
- Classifications were revamped and Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 classifications are no longer. There are now four SRD classes: SRL, SRL-R, SRL-LE, and SRL-LE-R. SRDs are categorized by (1) how the device is used and (2) the point at which the device is connected. Here are the new definitions for the 4 classes:
  - A. Class SRL**—It is anchored at an elevation which limits the free fall to the activation distance of the device... and the extracted life line cannot bear against an edge or surface during fall arrest
  - B. Class SRL-R**—Shall be a Class SRL device that is provided with an integral means for assisted rescue
  - C. Class SRL-LE**—An SRL with Leading edge capability. In addition to application for SRL devices, a Class SRL-LE shall be suitable for applications where one or more of the following conditions are met:
    - It is anchored lower than the dorsal D-ring of the full-body harness
    - The extracted lifeline can bear against an edge or surface during fall arrest
  - D. Class SRL-LE-R**—An SRL with leading edge and integral rescue capability. Class SRL LE-R shall be both suitable for SRL-LE and SRL-LE-R
- General, material, and other design requirements were updated or upgraded.
- Modifications and additions were made to leading edge test structure, as well as to dynamic performance testing parameters, including static strength improvement, aggregate energy absorption, and locking performance test limit.
- Markings and instructions were updated and a new requirement was added for marking of the maximum deployment distance.
- “Recertification” was replaced with “Revalidation,” which requires that SRDs be sent to the manufacturer or authorized representative for regular inspection and maintenance.
- The addition of Revalidation requires that a “Competent Person” (as defined by the standard) categorize each SRD according to three pre-defined types, each with its own revalidation schedule per the table on page 2.

**Inspection Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices**  
*Chart referenced in CSA Z259.2.2-17*

Type of Use	Application Examples	Example Conditions of Use	Worker Inspection Frequency	Competent Person Inspection Frequency	Product Revalidation Frequency
<b>INFREQUENT TO LIGHT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rescue and confined space</li> <li>Factory maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good storage conditions</li> <li>Indoor or infrequent outdoor use</li> <li>Room temperature</li> <li>Clean environments</li> </ul>	Before each use	Annually	At least every 5 years, but not more than intervals required by the manufacturer.
<b>MODERATE TO HEAVY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Residential construction</li> <li>Utilities</li> <li>Warehouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair storage conditions</li> <li>Indoor and extended outdoor use</li> <li>All temperatures</li> <li>Clean or dusty environments</li> </ul>	Before each use	Semi-annually to annually	At least every 2 years, but not more than intervals required by the manufacturer.
<b>SEVERE TO CONTINUOUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial construction</li> <li>Oil and gas</li> <li>Mining</li> <li>Foundry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harsh storage conditions</li> <li>Prolonged or continuous outdoor use</li> <li>All temperatures</li> <li>Dirty environment</li> </ul>	Before each use	Quarterly to semi-annually	At least annually, but not more than intervals required by the manufacturer.

An SRD that is considered non-repairable, or not designed for disassembly such that internal inspection is not possible without rendering it unserviceable, is not subject to revalidation inspection.

These SRDs shall have service life and other inspection requirements as provided by the manufacturer’s instructions.

### What Stayed the Same

- The general scope of the standards remains the same, including the equipment specified for workers at risk of falls from height.
- The standard continues to include SRDs for personal fall arrest systems that incorporate a means of assisted rescue following a fall arrest incident.

### Effective Date for Manufacturer Implementation

- **August 1, 2019**

### Want to Know More?

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