

Amendment of Construction Code of Safety Belts

Article 42 of Industrial Safety and Health Act (Act No. 57, 1972) obligates machines, etc., specified by Paragraph (3), Article 13 of the Order for Enforcement of Industrial Safety and Health Act (Cabinet order No. 318, 1972) to conform to the construction code provided by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. Based on the ISO standards about personal fall-arrest systems, the government of Japan is going to entirely amend the “construction code of safety belts” (Minister’s notification No. 38, 2002. Hereinafter refers as “code”.) as follows.

- 1) Amend the name of “safety belts” as “fall-arrest systems” for harmonizing with ISO 10333.
- 2) Harmonize the amended code to ISO 10333-1, 10333-2, 10333-6 in principle, however, establish the prescription of national differences in the following items, taking Japanese physique and method of work into account :
 - a) Permit to use safety belt type fall-arrest systems in the workplace whose height is no more than 6.75 m.
 - b) The full body harness shall withstand a tensile force of 15 kN applied to the lower eyebolt of the torso, and shall withstand a force of 10kN applied to the upper eyebolt of the torso.
 - c) The type 1 energy absorbers (the maximum free-fall distance is 1.8 m and the maximum arresting force is 4.0 kN) and the type 2 energy absorbers (the maximum free-fall distance is 4.0 m and the maximum arresting force is 6.0 kN) shall withstand a tensile force of 15 kN.
 - d) The lanyards that incorporate the type 1 energy absorbers shall withstand a tensile force of 15kN. The lanyards that incorporate the type 2 energy absorbers shall withstand a tensile force of 22 kN.
 - e) Connectors shall withstand a tensile force of 11.5 kN.
 - f) Mass of the torso, sand back and test mass shall be 100 kg or 85 kg.

The Industrial Safety and Health Act, related ordinance and notification are available at the following website.

http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail_main?re=01&ia=03&vm=&id=1926

http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail_main?re=01&ia=03&vm=&id=2245