



Certification relating to EN341

EN341:2011 does not include Annex ZA and is not harmonised (i.e. does not appear on the Official Journal list), because it is for rescue and not PPE- (The definition of PPE as described in Directive 89/686/EEC is: any device or appliance designed to be worn or held by an individual for protection against one or more health and safety hazards). Since EN341:2011 is not a harmonized standard, a Notified Body cannot CE approve a product according to this standard. There was an earlier version of EN341 dated 1993 which was harmonised and could be used by a Notified Body for CE approval. However, this standard was withdrawn on 31st August 2011. It is not possible to use a withdrawn standard to CE approve a new product.

EN12841:2006 is both harmonized and a standard relevant to descending devices. An additional harmonized standard that is relevant to descent/belay devices is EN15151-1:Mountaineering equipment – Braking devices with manually assisted locking, safety requirements and test methods.

We received the statement below from a Notified Body, but have tried to explain the content in a more informal way:

'Annex ZA is the part of a harmonized standard used by Notified bodies during an EC Type Examination in accordance the PPE Directive. It identifies the clauses of the standard which relate to essential requirements of PPE Directive 89/686/EEC. If a standard does not have annex ZA, it can be more difficult to check compliance with the PPE Directive. A harmonised standard carries a presumption of conformity with the Directive for the clauses referred to in Annex ZA. A list of current harmonised standards is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.'

The ISC D4 descender device has been tested and approved according to EN12841:2006. It has also been tested by a Notified Body, and meets the requirements of ANSI z359.4-2007 and NFPA 1983:2012. There are many tests contained within these three standards that cover the same test requirements as EN341:2011. This in no way implies that the D4 is approved according to EN341:2011, but does highlight that many of the requirements of EN341:2011 can be met through testing of the device according to the other three standards.

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