



Fall Protection

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FALL PROTECTION

Falls are a leading cause of serious injuries, and even death, in the construction industry. Personnel who perform work on surfaces with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet or more above a lower level, must be protected from falling by the use of guardrails, safety nets, personal fall arrest systems, or other approved means.

The following requirements apply:

All workers that are exposed to potential fall hazards must be trained in the proper use of fall protection equipment before using any fall protection products. Workers must be able to identify potential fall hazards, determine which equipment to use in specific work situations, and demonstrate proper anchoring procedures.

Supervisors that coordinate work in areas where employees may be exposed to potential fall hazards must be trained and have the ability to determine the best means to protect employees from the hazard. Methods of protection include the installation of guardrails, use of restraint and positioning systems, warning line systems, or controlled access zones, and development of a fall protection plan.

Fall protection must be provided in any areas where fall hazards exist including, but not limited to:

Hoist areas: Employees in a hoist area must be protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. If guardrail systems, [or chain, gate, or guardrail] are removed to facilitate the hoisting, and an employee must lean through the access opening or out over the edge of the access opening, that employee must be protected from fall hazards by a personal fall arrest system.

Holes: Employees must be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet above lower levels by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes.

Formwork and reinforcing steel: Each employee on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel must be protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, or positioning device systems.

Wells/Excavations: Each employee at the edge of a well, pit, shaft, and similar excavation 5 feet or more in depth must be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, barricades, or covers.

Roofs: Employees working on flat roofs or sloped roofs with unprotected sides or edges 6 or more feet above lower levels must be protected using guardrail systems, safety nets, warning line systems, safety monitoring system, restraint system, or personal fall arrest systems.

Ladders: Personnel working from fixed or movable ladders may need to utilize a personal fall arrest system.

Scaffolds: Personnel erecting scaffolding must be protected from fall hazards when feasible. Personnel working from scaffolds must be protected from fall hazards by using guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems.

Other Considerations

Full Body harnesses shall be used when working from bucket trucks, cherry pickers, manlifts and similar devices where an equipment malfunction could cause an employee to fall.

When an employee is exposed to falling objects, they must wear a hardhat. In addition, one or more of the following must be implemented to minimize the risk of falling objects:

Toeboards, screens, or guardrail systems must be erected to prevent objects from falling from higher levels; or,

Erect a canopy structure and keep potential fall objects away from the edge of the higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced; or,

Barricade the area into which objects could fall, prohibit employees from entering the barricaded area, and keep objects that may fall far enough away from the edge of a higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced.

Personal fall arrest systems will be attached to approved anchor points at all times.

Fall protective devices, including full body harnesses, lanyards, connecting devices and related equipment must be approved for the use. The use of body belts for fall protection and the use of non-locking snaphooks are prohibited as of January 1, 1998. Though body belts may be used as positioning or restraint devices, it is recommended that all body belts be replaced with a full body harness that incorporates a positioning system. Body belts may not be worn in any area where there is exposure to a fall hazard.