

FALL PROTECTION

Introduction

One of the leading causes of work-related injuries is falls from elevations. In an effort to reduce these incidents, Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) implemented 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M the "Fall Protection" standard for the construction industry requiring employers to ensure fall restrictive or limiting devices are used to prevent inadvertent falls. Any and all work above "six feet" (6') requires some type of fall prevention or limiting device to reduce injuries. Typical coverage for fall protection includes the following:

- Scaffolding and elevated work platforms
- All baskets and powered man-lifts
- Walkways, stairways, ladders and floor openings
- Rooftops and all leading edge locations

Applicable Regulations

- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M – Fall Protection
- 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D – Walking and Working Surfaces
- 29 CFR 1910 Subpart F – Powered Platforms, Man lifts, Vehicle Mounted Platforms
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart E – Personal Protective and Life Saving Systems
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L – Scaffolding

Summary of Requirements

- Stairways and work areas exposed greater than 6 feet must be guarded with railing.
- All floor openings greater than 30" by 18" must be appropriately guarded or covered.
- Open sided floors or platforms 4 feet or more above adjacent surfaces must be appropriately guarded.
- Ladders and scaffolding must be designed, constructed and used as designed.
- Elevator doors must not open between floors.
- Wall openings must be appropriately guarded.
- Employees must be protected from hazards associated with "unprotected" roof surfaces either by distance through the use of a "Hazard Zone" or fall restrictive devices.
- Safety harnesses, lifelines, lanyards, and safety nets used for fall protection must be designed, constructed and used in compliance with applicable regulations. Only full body harnesses and locking snap hooks are permitted. (29 CFR 1926).
- Every floor, working place and passageway must be kept dry and free of obstructions.
- Training must be provided to everyone working or exposed to fall risks.

Training

Employees must be trained and equipped in the prevention of injuries associated with slip, trip and fall hazards. Employees assigned to train other employees ("competent person") must be trained through a qualified fall protection training program.

Reporting

In the event of any incident resulting in the near-miss, minor or serious injury of any person or property damage ASU EH&S must be notified immediately.

Inspections

Work areas and equipment associated with fall protection (ropes, harnesses, ladders, scaffolding, etc.) must be inspected prior to use and removed from service if damaged or defective. Walking and working surfaces must be inspected daily to identify, correct potential slip, trip and fall hazards.

Recordkeeping

Training and certification records must be maintained for employees that receive fall protection training. Inspection certification records must be maintained for power lifts, working platforms and scaffolding.

Written Program

A written fall protection program is required and a specific fall protection plan must be prepared by a qualified person in situations where the requirements of the standard fall protection plan cannot or would not be practical and could create a more hazardous situation.

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