

Fall Protection in the Workplace

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Fall protection is required for:

Sides and edges of floors and platforms
Openings in walls
Ramps, runways, and walkways
Roofs

OSHA's Maximum Allowable Fall Height

Construction	General Industry
6 feet	4 feet
6 feet	4 feet
6 feet	4 feet
6 feet	4 feet

Note: Skylights, floor openings, and holes require fall protection at all heights

Guardrail requirements:

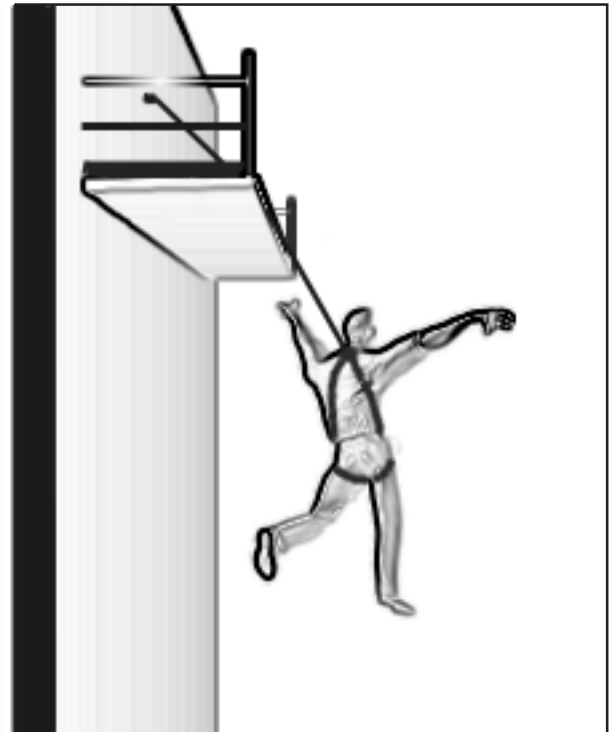
- A top rail that is 42 inches above the platform and is able to withstand a force of 200 pounds
- An intermediate rail that is approximately 21 inches above the platform and is able to withstand a force of 150 pounds
- A toe board that is four inches high and is able to withstand a force of 50 pounds

Personal fall arrest system requirements:

- An anchorage capable of supporting 5,000 pounds/person or one that has been designed by a qualified person to bear twice the maximum potential force of a falling body
 - A lanyard with a locking snaphook
 - A safety harness with a maximum fall-arresting force of 1800 pounds
 - A safety belt with a maximum fall-arresting force of 900 pounds
- Note:** Safety belts are not acceptable for personal fall arrest in the construction industry after January 1, 1998

Training requirements:

- Fall hazards in the work area
- Selection and use of personal fall arrest systems
- Use and operation of any other fall protection systems such as safety nets, warning lines or safety monitoring systems



For further information, call the Safety, Health & Environmental Technology Division, 404/894-3806