

New Walking-Working Surfaces and PPE (Fall Protection) Rule

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Purpose of the New Rule

- To update the outdated subpart D standard, incorporating new technology and industry practices
- To increase consistency with OSHA's construction standards (CFR 1926 subparts L, M, and X)
- To add new provisions to subpart I that set forth criteria requirements for personal fall protection equipment

Who is Affected?

- OSHA estimates 6.9 million general industry establishments employing 112.3 million workers will be affected



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Benefits

- According to BLS data, slips, trips, and falls are a leading cause of workplace fatalities and injuries in general industry
- OSHA estimates the new rule will prevent 29 fatalities and 5,842 injuries annually
- Net benefits - \$309.5 million/year
(Monetized benefits – annual costs)



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Need for Regulation - Fatal Falls

Table II-1. Fatal Falls to a Lower Level – General Industry

Year	Fatal Falls to a Lower Level
2006	283
2007	279
2008	234
2009	237
2010	243
2011	278
2012	270



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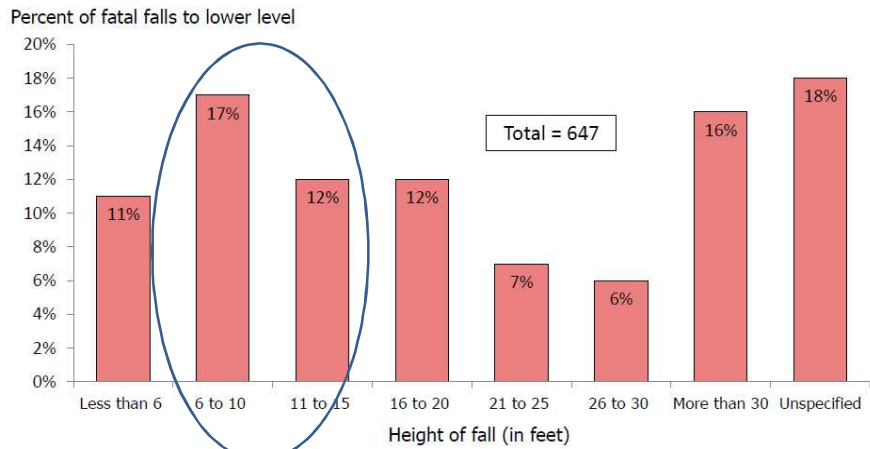
Falls by Industry 2006-2012

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (NAICS 541) and Administrative Support Services (NAICS 561) = 27% of fatal falls
 - 86% of Admin Support Services fatal falls occurred in industries providing services to buildings/dwellings
- Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33) = 9.6%
- Transportation (NAICS 48) = 7.1%



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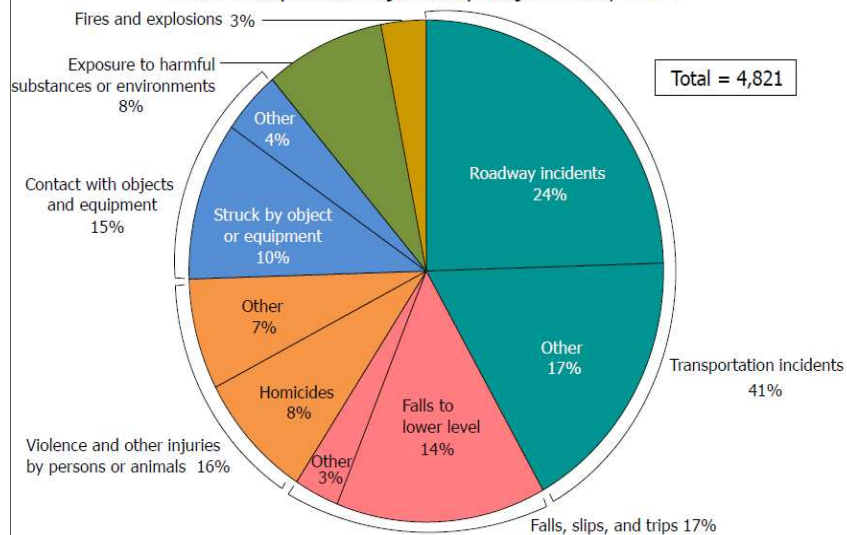
Fatal falls to lower level by height of fall, 2014*



In 2014, the preliminary total for falls to lower level was 647 fatal work injuries, up 9 percent from the final count for 2013. Of the cases where height of fall was known (532 cases), about 2 out of every 3 were falls of 20 feet or less. One in five cases with a known height involved falls from more than 30 feet.

Data for 2014 are preliminary.

Fatal occupational injuries by major event, 2014



More fatal work injuries resulted from transportation incidents than from any other event in 2014. Roadway incidents alone accounted for nearly one out of every four fatal work injuries.

Data for all years are revised and final.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

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Organization of Subpart D

§1910.21 – Scope, Application and Definitions	§1910.26 – Dockboards
§1910.22 – General Requirements	§1910.27 – Scaffolds and Rope Descent Systems
§1910.23 – Ladders	§1910.28 – Duty to Have Fall Protection
§1910.24 – Step bolts and Manhole Steps	§1910.29 – Fall Protection Systems Criteria and Practices
§1910.25 – Stairways	§1910.30 – Training Requirements

§1910.21

§1910.21 – Scope and definitions

- Consolidates definitions into one section
- Adds new definitions to provide clarity

§1910.22

§1910.22 – General Requirements

- Maintains housekeeping provisions
- Walking-working surfaces must be designed to meet their maximum intended load, free of recognized hazards, and routinely inspected - **UPDATED**
- Repairs to be done, or overseen, by qualified person - **NEW**



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Walking Working Surfaces



§1910.23

§1910.23 – Ladders.

- Consolidates and simplifies rules into general requirements, portable ladders, fixed ladders, and mobile ladder stands
- Requires inspection before use



Fixed Ladders



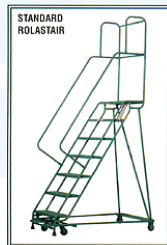
Portable Ladders and Step Stools



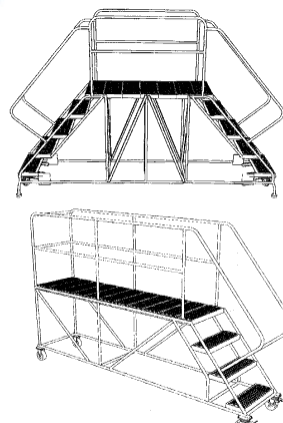
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§1910.23 (cont)

- Updates and makes rule consistent with current national consensus standards



Mobile Ladder Stand



Mobile Ladder Stand Platform



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Walking Working Surfaces



1910.23

- **Fixed Ladders – phased in requirements**
 - Existing ladders: installed before 11/19/18 require personal fall arrest system, ladder safety system, cage or well
 - New ladders: installed after 11/19/18 require personal fall arrest or ladder safety system
 - Replacements: fall arrest/ladder safety system
 - 11/18/36: fall arrest/ladder safety system for all

§1910.24

§1910.24 – Step bolts and manhole steps



- Moves step bolt criteria from OSHA's Telecommunication Standard to Walking-Working Surfaces
- Makes design, inspection, and maintenance requirements consistent with national consensus standards



Step bolts on pole



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§1910.25

§1910.25 – Stairways

- Adds design and use criteria for spiral stairs, ship stairs, and alternating tread-type stairs
- Updates design criteria for stairs and landings, consistent with national consensus standards



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§1910.26

§1910.26 – Dockboards

- Updates requirements for dockboards
- Adds design and construction requirements to prevent equipment from going over the dockboard edge



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§1910.27

§1910.27 – Scaffolds and Rope Descent Systems (RDS)

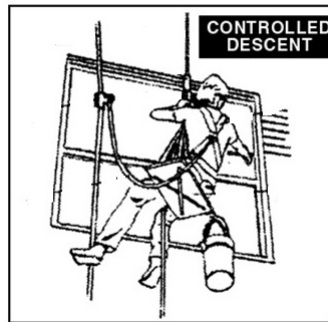
- Requires that employers using scaffolds follow the construction standard (Subpart L, 1926.451+)
- Adds provision allowing use of RDS, which codifies a 1991 OSHA memo allowing RDS
- Requires certification of anchorages starting 1 year after final rule published
- Requires RDS have separate fall arrest system



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Rope Descent Systems

ROPE DESCENT SYSTEM (RDS)



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Can You Identify the Fall Hazard?



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Construction Standard – Subpart L



§1910.28

§1910.28 – Duty to have fall protection and falling object protection

- Consolidates general industry fall protection requirements into one section
- Makes requirements and format consistent with construction standard
- Incorporates new technology that is consistent with national consensus standards
- Gives employers flexibility to use the system that works best to protect workers in their situation

§1910.28

- Generally requires falling object protection and fall protection meeting criteria in 1910.29
- 1910.28(b) Protection from fall hazards:
 - 4 feet** or more above a lower level:
 - Guardrail systems
 - Safety net systems; or
 - Personal fall protection systems

- PFAS
- Travel restraint system
- Positioning system



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§1910.28

1910.28(b)(2) – (b)(15):
requirements for special conditions including:

- Hoist Areas
- Holes
- Dockboards
- Runways
- Dangerous Equipment
- Repair/Service Pits < 10 ft in depth
- Fixed Ladders (24')
- Outdoor Advertising
- Scaffolds and Rope Descent Systems
- Low-Slope Roofs
- Slaughtering Facility Platforms
- Surfaces not Otherwise Covered

§1910.29

§1910.29 – Fall protection systems criteria

Specifies design and installation requirements of each fall protection system available to employers including:

- Guardrails
 - Top rail: 42 ± 3"
 - Midrail or Screen or Vertical posts 19" or closer
- Stair rails
 - 42"
 - Handrail: 30-38"
 - 1 system: 36-38"
- Designated Areas
- Safety Nets
- Covers
- Cages and wells
- Ladder safety systems
- Toeboards

§1910.30

§1910.30 – Training

- Adds training and retraining requirements addressing fall hazards and equipment hazards
- Requires employers make training understandable to workers

§1910.140

§1910.140 – Personal Protective Equipment, Subpart I (Personal Fall Protection Systems)

- Adds definitions for personal fall protection systems
- Adds new section on system and use criteria for:
 - Personal fall protection equipment (e.g., lanyards, ropes, D-rings, harnesses)
 - Personal fall arrest systems
 - Travel restraint systems
 - Work positioning systems

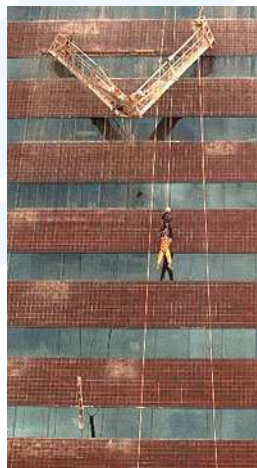


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Personal Fall Protection



Travel Restraint



Personal Fall Arrest



Work Positioning



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Major Changes

- Fall Protection Flexibility
- Updated Scaffold Requirements
- Phase-in of ladder safety systems or personal fall arrest systems on fixed ladders
- Phase-out of “qualified climbers” on outdoor advertising structures
- Rope descent systems
- Adds requirements for personal fall protection equipment (final §1910.140)
- Adds training requirements



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Main Effective Dates

- Rule overall: January 17, 2017
- Training: 6 months after publication
- Building anchorages for RDS: 1 year after publication
- Fixed ladder fall protection: 2 years after publication
- Installation of ladder safety system or personal fall arrest system on fixed ladders: 20 years after publication



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Compliance Assistance Resources

OSHA's new webpage on subparts D&I:
[osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces](https://www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces)

- Standard
- Fact sheets
- Q&A

The screenshot shows the OSHA website header with the United States Department of Labor logo and a search bar. The main content area features the title "Final Rule to Update General Industry Walking-Working Surfaces and Fall Protection Standards" and a brief summary of the rule. A sidebar on the right contains links for "About the Rule", "Read the Rule in the Federal Register", "Regulatory Text", "Fact Sheet", "Questions and Answers", and "Press Release".

