

# OSHA FALL PROTECTION REFERENCE

OSHA REGULATION		COMMENTARY	SPECIFIC FALL PROTECTION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS RELATIVE TO EACH SUBPART
PART	SUBPART		
PART 1910 GENERAL INDUSTRY	<b>Subpart D - Walking/Working Surfaces</b> 1910.28 Duty to have fall protection and falling object protection (b) Protection from fall hazards (b)(1) Unprotected sides and edges	(b)(1)(i) Except as provided elsewhere in this section, the employer must ensure that each employee on a walking-working surface with an unprotected side or edge that is 4 feet or more above a lower level is protected from falling by one of more of the following: (A) Guardrail systems; (B) Safety net systems; or (C) Personal fall protection systems, such as personal fall arrest, travel restraint, or positioning systems.	Since its inception in the early 1970's, 29 CFR 1910 OSHA General Industry Regulations (general industry as opposed to construction specifically, i.e. warehouse, industrial, etc. workers) have required workers to be protected from falling at heights at or above 4 feet.
			There are no specific OSHA General Industry, Subpart D fall protection training requirements for workers exposed to falls under 4 feet in height or when working adjacent to properly guarded edges which are 4 feet or more in height.  Training is required per standard 1910.30 for workers utilizing personal fall protection systems or where special exposures in excess of 4 feet are permitted as specifically addressed elsewhere in Subpart D.
PART 1926 CONSTRUCTION	<b>Subpart M - Fall Protection</b> 1926.501 Duty to have fall protection	(b)(1) Unprotected sides and edges. Each employee on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge which is <b>6 feet or more</b> above a lower level shall be protected from falling by use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.	Since its inception in the early 1970's, 29 CFR 1926 OSHA Construction Industry Regulations have generally required workers to be protected from falling at heights at or above 6 feet.
	<b>Subpart L - Scaffolds</b> 1926.451 General requirements (g) Fall Protection	(g)(1) Each employee on a scaffold <b>more than 10 feet</b> above a lower level shall be protected from falling to that lower level.	OSHA originally established the maximum unprotected fall distance for scaffolds at 6 feet. By 1973, this height was increased to 10 feet in recognition of the fact that ANSI A10.8-1969 Scaffolding, the relevant consensus standard for scaffolding, had already established the threshold height for scaffolding fall protection at 10 feet.
	<b>Subpart R - Steel Erection</b> 1926.760 Fall protection (a) General requirements (b) Connectors (c) Controlled Decking Zone	(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, each employee engaged in a steel erection activity who is on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge <b>more than 15 feet</b> above a lower level shall be protected from fall hazards . . . (a)(3) Connectors and persons working in controlled decking zones (CDZ) shall be protected from fall hazards as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, respectively. (b)(1) Each connector shall be protected in accordance with paragraph (a)(1) of this section from fall hazards of <b>more than two stories or 30 feet</b> above a lower level, whichever is less. (c)(1) Each employee working at the leading edge in a CDZ shall be protected from fall hazards of <b>more than two stories or 30 feet</b> , whichever is less.	Following nearly 10 years of development by the Steel Erection Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee (SENAC), in 2001 OSHA published the revised Subpart R addressing steel erection work, including fall protection. (SENAC was the first time that OSHA incorporated a negotiated rulemaking process involving a committee of individuals from government and private industry representing a cross-section of the industry. Following SENAC, the Crane & Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee, C-DAC, worked to overhaul the Cranes and Derricks in Construction subpart of Part 1926.) OSHA and the steel erection industry recognized the unique nature and challenges of the fall protection elements of steel erection especially as it relates to connecting and decking work.

Looking for More Information?

- Visit us online to review substantive technical articles & expert CVs
- Call 800.813.6736 to speak with a technical expert relevant to your case
- Submit an inquiry at [www.robsonforensic.com/contact](http://www.robsonforensic.com/contact)
- Email us at [inquiries@robsonforensic.com](mailto:inquiries@robsonforensic.com)