



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C671: Walking & Working Surfaces (B)

Introduction: Fatal falls and serious injuries to workers result from inadequate guarding and fall protection around skylights, and roof and floor openings.

Protection for wall openings and holes: Every wall opening that has a drop of more than 4 feet to a lower level must be guarded by one of the following:

- Rail, roller, picket fence, half door, or equivalent barrier. Where there is a hazard of materials falling below on to workers below, a removable toe board or the equivalent must also be provided. When the opening is not in use for handling materials, the guard must be kept in place even if there is a door on the opening. In addition, a grab handle must be provided on each side of the opening with its center approximately 4 feet above floor level.
- Extension platforms used for material handling must have side rails or equivalent standard guards.
- Every chute wall opening where there is a drop of more than 4 feet must be guarded by one or more barriers depending on the conditions.
- Every window opening at a stairway landing, floor, platform, or balcony, with a drop of more than 4 feet and the bottom of the opening is less than 3 feet above the platform or landing, must be guarded by slats, grill work, or railing.
- Where the window opening is below the landing or platform, a standard toe board is required.
- Every temporary wall opening must have adequate guards, but these need not be of standard construction.
- Where there is a hazard of materials falling through a wall hole, and the lower edge of one side of the hole is less than 4 inches above the floor, and the other side is more than 5 feet above the next lower level, the hole must be protected by a standard toeboard, or an enclosing screen.

Protection of open-sided floors, platforms, and runways: Every open sided floor or platform 4 feet or more above a floor or ground level must be guarded by a railing on all open sides except where there is an entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder.

- The railing must be provided with a toeboard beneath the open sides, wherever persons can pass, where there is moving machinery, or where there is equipment that could be hit by falling materials.
- Every runway 4 feet or more above floor or ground level must be guarded by a standard railing on all open sides. If tools, machine parts, or materials are likely to be used on the runway, a toeboard must be installed on each exposed side.
- Runways used for special purposes may have the railing on one side omitted where work requires it. In this case, the runway must be at least 18 inches wide. If workers on the runways are exposed to machinery, electrical equipment, or any non-falling hazard, additional guarding may be necessary.
- Open-sided floors, walkways, platforms, or runways, regardless of height, that are above or next to dangerous equipment must be guarded with a standard railing and toe board.

Floor opening covers: Covers may be of any material that meets the strength requirements. Covers projecting not more than one inch above the floor level may be used if all edges are beveled to an angle with the horizontal of not over 30 degrees. All hinges, handles, bolts, or other parts must set flush with the floor or cover surface.

- Skylight screens must be able to withstand a load of at least 200 pounds applied perpendicularly at any one area on the screen. They must also be able to withstand ordinary loads or impacts, without deflecting downward and breaking the glass below them. The screen must be made of grillwork with openings of not more than 4 inches long, or of slat work with openings not more than 2 inches wide.
- Wall opening barriers (rails, rollers, picket fences, and half doors) must be able to withstand a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction (except upward) at any point on the top rail or corresponding member.
- Wall opening grab handles must be at least 12 inches long and must provide 3 inches clearance from the side framing of the wall opening. The grab handle must be able to withstand a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point of the handle.
- Wall opening screens must be able to withstanding a load of at least 200 pounds applied horizontally at any point on the near side of the screen. They can be made of solid material, of grillwork with openings of not more than 8 inches long, or of slat work with openings of not more than 4 inches wide.

Conclusion: Let your fellow workers know where there is an opening in a floor or roof.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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_____	_____	_____
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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.