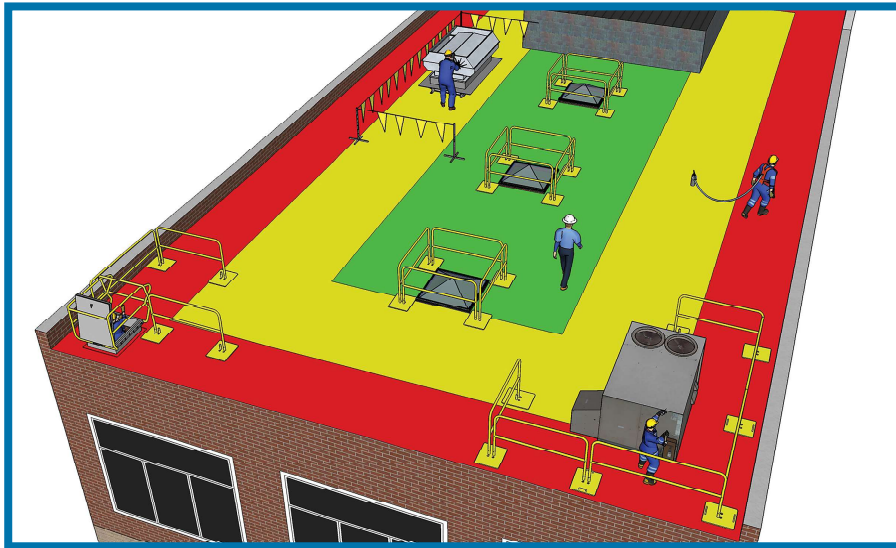


**NEW 2017**

# **OSHA**<sup>®</sup> Final Rule for Walking-Working Surfaces When & Where do you need Fall Protection?

January 17th 2017, OSHA's "Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems Final Rule" went into effect. What does this mean for you? It make the rules easier to follow and provides employers with greater flexibility to choose the fall protection option that works best for them. It also means greater consistency between General Industry and Construction Standards. This guide will help you understand when and where you need fall protection.



## **DUTY TO PROVIDE FALL PROTECTION**

Here is what OSHA says about work on low slope roofs:

OSHA's new rule **1910.28(b)(13)**, defines low-slope roofs as a roof "having a slope less than or equal to 4 in 12 (vertical to horizontal)." This means that the roof's slope does not exceed a 4-inch vertical rise for every 12 inches in horizontal length.

### **1910.28(b)(13)(i)**

When work is performed less than 6 feet from the roof edge, the employer must ensure each employee is protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system.

### **1910.28(b)(13)(ii)**

When work is performed at least 6 feet but less than 15 feet from the roof edge, the employer must ensure each employee is protected from falling by using a guardrail system, safety net system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system. The employer may use a designated area when performing work that is both infrequent and temporary.

### **1910.28(b)(13)(iii)**

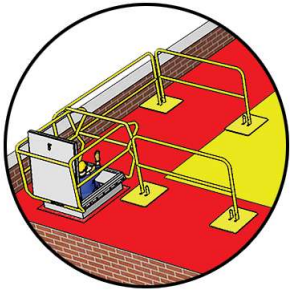
When work is performed 15 feet or more from the roof edge, the employer must:

#### **1910.28(b)(13)(iii)(A)**

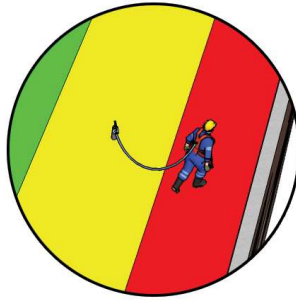
Protect each employee from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system or a designated area. The employer is not required to provide any fall protection, provided the work is both infrequent and temporary; and

#### **1910.28(b)(13)(iii)(B)**

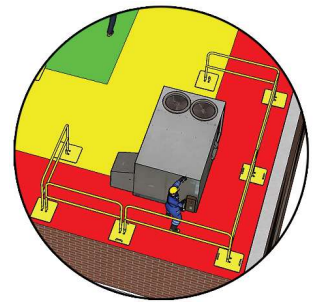
Implement and enforce a work rule prohibiting employees from going within 15 feet of the roof edge without using fall protection in accordance with paragraphs (b)(13)(i) and (ii) of this section



**EXTREME DANGER**



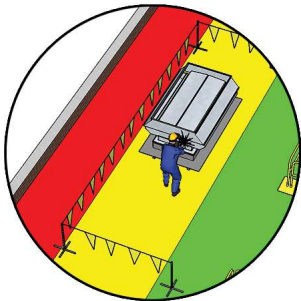
**EXTREME DANGER**



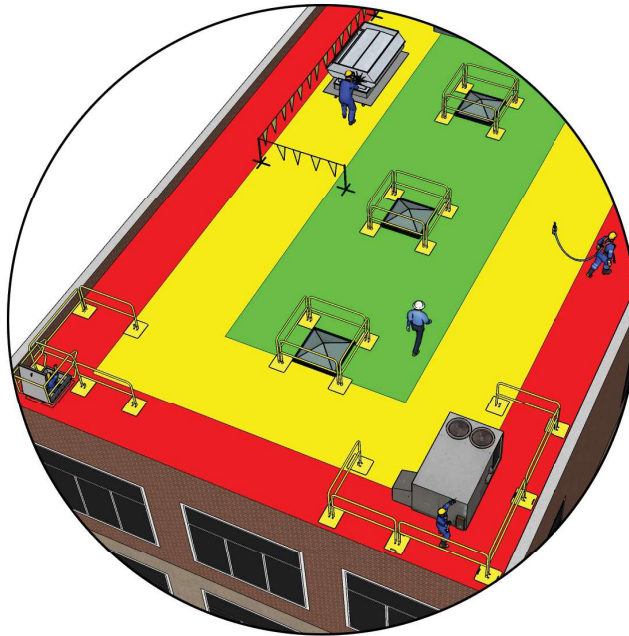
**EXTREME DANGER**

When work is performed less than 6 feet from the roof edge, the employer must ensure each employee is protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system.

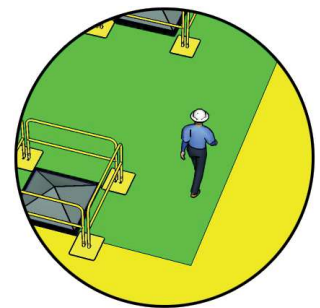
**HIGH DANGER**



When working between 6'-15' from the roof edge, the employer must ensure each employee is protected from falling by using a conventional fall protection system. Designated areas are acceptable when performing work that is both infrequent and temporary.



**MODERATE DANGER**



Each employee is protected from falling through any hole (including skylights) that is 4 feet or more above a lower level by one or more of the following: Covers; Guardrail systems; Travel restraint systems; or Personal fall arrest systems.

### OSHA's new terms "infrequent", "temporary" and "designated area" are defined below:

"Infrequent" work refers to tasks or jobs performed only occasionally, when necessary, and at sporadic intervals. This includes annual maintenance and/or servicing of equipment monthly or quarterly replacement of batteries or HVAC filters, or addressing equipment outages.

"Temporary" work means that the time workers need to finish their task is brief. These short tasks include those that workers are able to perform in less time than it takes to install conventional fall protection, as well as work that can be completed at one time rather than repeatedly.

"Designated area" means a distinct portion of a walking-working surface delineated by a warning line in which employees may perform work without additional fall protection



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