

# FALL PROTECTION POLICY

## **Purpose:**

In the construction industry in the U.S., falls are the leading cause of worker fatalities. The Company recognizes that accidents involving falls are generally complex events frequently involving a variety of factors. Consequently, this policy deals with both the human and equipment-related issues in protecting employees from fall hazards during SPF operations. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the protection of all employees from fall hazards, through training and the proper selection and use of fall protection systems.

## **Responsibility:**

The company Safety Officer is \_\_\_\_\_. He/she is solely responsible for implementing this policy and has full authority to make necessary decisions to ensure a safe working environment free of uncontrolled fall hazards. This authority includes the spending authority necessary to implement the policy. The Safety Officer will develop written instructions as necessary covering the use of specific fall protection systems, and is the sole person authorized to amend these instructions.

The Company has expressly authorized the Safety Officer to halt any operation of the Company where there is danger of serious personal injury. This policy includes fall hazards.

## **Training (29 CFR 1926.503):**

Employees must receive training in the following areas prior to assignment to SPF projects: (a) the nature of fall hazards in the SPF building envelope application environment; (b) the correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting fall protection systems, (c) the correct procedures for handling and hoisting of materials and equipment; and (d) the employees role in the Company's fall protection policy.

## **ROOFING APPLICATIONS**

### **Low-Slope Roofs -- 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(10):**

Roofing projects on low-slope roofs (pitch less than 4 in 12) with unprotected sides (parapet less than 39" high) and edges six (6) feet or more above lower levels shall be protected from fall hazards by the use of a guardrail system, warning line system and/or safety monitoring system. On roofs fifty (50) feet or less in width, the use of a safety monitoring system without a warning line system is permitted.

Guardrail System – A system of protecting the roof edge or roof openings with a top rail height of 42", midrails as required, and capable of withstanding a force of 200 pounds in any outward or downward direction. The components and construction of the system shall conform to the requirements of 1926.502(b).

Warning Line System – A system of lines and stanchions conforming to the requirements of 1926.502(f) erected around all sides of the roof work areas not less than six (6) feet from the

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roof edge. When mechanical equipment is in use, the warning line must be not less than ten (10) feet from the roof edge perpendicular to the direction of mechanical equipment operation.

Safety Monitoring System – A system using a trained competent person meeting the requirements of 1926.502(h) to monitor the safety of employees on the roof. The monitor must be close enough to work operations to communicate orally with the employees and must have no other duties to distract from the monitoring function. All employees in the work zone being monitored must promptly comply with fall hazard warnings issued by safety monitors.

### **Steep Roofs -- 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(11):**

Roofing projects on steep-slope roofs (pitch of 4 in 12 or greater) with unprotected roof edges (parapet less than 39 inches high) more than six (6) feet above lower levels shall be protected from fall hazards by the use of a personal fall arrest system.

Personal Fall Arrest System – A system consisting of an anchorage, connectors, lifeline, and a body harness with shock-absorbing lanyard, together with any other special attachments or fittings required for the specific use so that the system conforms to the requirements of 1926.502(d). Personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear damage or other deterioration. Defective components must be removed from service. Anchorages shall be installed by a trained, qualified employee and shall be capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds. Anchorages used to attach personal fall arrest systems shall be independent of any anchorage being used to support or suspend platforms or equipment.

### **Hoist Areas -- 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(3):**

Employees in a hoist area shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system or personal fall arrest system. If a portion of the guardrail must be opened to land material, and if the worker must lean through the opening or lean over the roof edge during hoisting, that worker must be protected by a personal fall arrest system.

Guardrail System – A system of protecting the roof edge or roof openings with a top rail height of 42", midrails as required, and capable of withstanding a force of 200 pounds in any outward or downward direction. The components and construction of the system shall conform to the requirements of 1926.502(b).

### **Holes -- 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4):**

Holes in the roof (including skylights without burglar bars or other certified screens) that are more than six (6) feet above lower levels must be protected with covers or guardrails. Covers shall be capable of supporting twice any anticipated load from employees or equipment, be secured in place, and be labeled "HOLE" or "COVER" in accordance with the requirements of 1926.502(i).

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## Roof Access:

Access to the roof on a typical roofing project will be by way of the building roof hatch, a safety scaffold stair tower, or (most often) by a ladder. When ladders are used, the following precautions must be observed:

1. Inspect the ladder carefully for worn or damaged parts.
2. Use only Type I Commercial/Industrial rated ladders.
3. Stand the ladder up using the proper technique.
4. The ladder must extend three (3) feet above the top of the roof edge or parapet.
5. The ladder must be set up on level ground and at the proper angle.
6. The ladder must be tied off at the top of the wall.

## Interior Applications

Scaffolds – Scaffolding used in SPF building envelope applications are typically “fabricated frame scaffolds” consisting of a platform supported on fabricated end frames with integral parts, horizontal bearers, and intermediate members conforming to the requirements of 1926.450-454. Each scaffold and scaffold component shall be capable of supporting without failure, its own weight and at least 4 times the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to it. Scaffold planks and platforms less than 10 foot shall extend not less than 6 inches and not more than 12 inches from the support frame. Supported scaffolds with a height to base ratio of more than four to one (4:1) shall be restrained from tipping by guying, tying, bracing or equivalent as described in 1926.450.

Ladders – Each self-supporting portable ladder shall be capable of supporting at least four times the maximum intended load and comply with the requirements of 1926.1053. When ladders are used, the following precautions must be observed:

1. Inspect the ladder carefully for worn or damaged parts.
2. Use only Type I Commercial/Industrial rated ladders.
3. Stand the ladder up using the proper technique.
4. The ladder must be set up on level ground and at the proper angle.

Personal Fall Arrest System – A system consisting of an anchorage, connectors, lifeline, and a body harness with shock-absorbing lanyard, together with any other special attachments or fittings required for the specific use so that the system conforms to the requirements of 1926.502(d). Personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear damage or other deterioration. Defective components must be removed from service. Anchorages shall be installed by a trained, qualified employee and shall be capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds. Anchorages used to attach personal fall arrest systems shall be independent of any anchorage being used to support or suspend platforms or equipment.

## IMPORTANT

Contractors should be advised that OSHA regulations are constantly being modified. It is the contractor's responsibility to be abreast of these changes.