

# FALL PROTECTION

## Supplement to Standard Training Module

### TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW

This standard Vivid training module provides a general overview of Fall Protection and the use of fall protection systems. This module focuses on the use of scaffolds in the construction industry. Most safety rules and information can also apply to the use of fall protection in general industry. Although no particular training regimen is required by the OSHA general industry standard, employees **must** receive information and training on fall protection used in their work area. In addition, training is required by the OSHA *construction* industry standard; construction employees **must** receive information and training on the exposure to fall hazards in construction workplaces.

In addition to the general overview, employees ***must*** to receive facility and work area specific training. This additional training ***should*** cover, at a minimum:

- The name or names of personnel in the workplace who are competent in their knowledge and understanding of the requirements and application of OSHA's Fall Protection standard
- Circumstances where the application of fall protection systems may be required in the workplace
- The types of fall protection systems used in the workplace and the proper use of such systems
- Where to obtain; how to care for and use personal fall protection equipment

Frequency: Initial training ***must*** be provided for all employees that might be exposed to fall hazards. Retraining ***must*** be provided in situations where:

- Changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete
- Changes in the types of fall protection systems or equipment to be used render previous training obsolete
- Inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of fall protection systems or equipment indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARD

### FALL PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY:

#### SCOPE, APPLICATION, AND DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO FALL PROTECTION – 29 CFR 1926.500

PURPOSE: To establish the scope and application of, and the definitions used in the fall protection standard.

1. SCOPE and APPLICATION: This section sets forth requirements and criteria for fall protection in construction workplaces covered under the construction standard.

Section 1926.501 – sets forth those workplaces, conditions, operations, and circumstances for which fall protection shall be provided.

Section 1926.502 – sets forth the requirements for the installation, construction, and proper use of fall protection.

Section 1926.503 – sets forth requirements for training in the installation and use of fall protection systems.

2. DEFINITIONS: This section defines a number of terms that are used in reference to fall protection and fall protection systems.

## **DUTY TO HAVE FALL PROTECTION – 29 CFR 1926.501**

**PURPOSE:** To establish and define an employer's duty to provide fall protection.

1. **GENERAL:** This section sets forth requirements for employers to provide fall protection systems.
2. **PROTECTION FROM FALLS:** This section describes the requirements to protect employees from falls in each of the following circumstances:
  - Unprotected sides and edges
  - Leading edges
  - Hoist areas
  - Holes
  - Formwork and reinforcing steel
  - Ramps, runways, and other walkways
  - Excavations
  - Dangerous equipment
  - Overhand bricklaying and related work
  - Roofing work on low-slope roofs
  - Steep roofs
  - Precast concrete erection
  - Residential construction
  - Wall openings
  - Walking/working surfaces not otherwise addressed
3. **PROTECTION FROM FALLING OBJECTS:** Employer requirements are stated for an employee exposed to falling objects. The employer shall have each employee wear a hard hat and shall implement one of the following measures:
  - Erect toeboards, screen, or guardrail systems
  - Erect a canopy structure
  - Barricade the area

## **FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS CRITERIA AND PRACTICES – 29 CFR 1926.502**

PURPOSE: To establish requirements and specifications for fall protection systems.

### 1. GENERAL: Requirements for fall protection systems:

- Guardrail systems
- Safety net systems
- Personal fall arrest systems
- Positioning device systems
- Warning lines systems
- Controlled access systems
- Safety monitoring systems
- Covers
- Protection from falling objects
- Fall protection plans - alternative

## **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS – 29 CFR 1926.503**

PURPOSE: To establish trainer and training requirements for employees engaged in work activities where they are exposed to fall hazards.

1. TRAINING PROGRAM: Requirements are stated for the employer to provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

Trainer Requirements – the trainer must be qualified in the following areas:

- The nature of fall hazards in the work area;
- The correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting the fall protection systems to be used;
- The use and operation of guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, warning line systems, safety monitoring systems, controlled access zones, and other protection to be used;
- The role of each employee in the safety monitoring system when this system is used;
- The limitations on the use of mechanical equipment during the performance of roofing work on low-sloped roofs;

- The correct procedures for the handling and storage of equipment and materials and the erection of overhead protection;
  - The role of employees in fall protection plans; and
  - The standards contained in this subpart.
2. CERTIFICATION OF TRAINING: Requires the employer to verify compliance with training requirements by preparing a written certification record. The standard specifies documentation requirements.
3. RETRAINING: Situations where retraining is required include:
- Changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete; or
  - Changes in the types of fall protection systems or equipment to be used render previous training obsolete; or
  - Inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of fall protection systems or equipment indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

### Publications

*Fall Protection in Construction*

Publication # 3146

Can be downloaded at: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3146.pdf>

### Website

OSHA website:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/index.html>