

Construction Industry Threshold Heights Requiring Fall Prevention/Protection Equipment

This chart provides a breakdown of the fall protection requirements of construction standards. Check to see if specific rules relate to your industry or activities. It's important that you look at the specific language in the standard, which can be found by clicking on the hyperlink.

Condition	Threshold	Method	Standard and Rule
All conditions, Generally.	6 feet	Guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system. Fall Protection Quick Guide	Part 45. Fall Protection , 1926.501. 1926.502.
Scaffolds	10 feet	Guardrail system and/or personal fall arrest system.	Part 12. Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms , Rule 1213.
Employees working on stairways.	4 risers or 30 inches, whichever is less.	Stair rails and/or handrails	Part 21. Guarding of Walking and Working Areas , Rule 2155. Rule 2156.
Employees working in a boom-supported or truck-mounted aerial work platform.	No minimum	Personal fall arrest system or restraint system in addition to the standard guardrail system.	Part 32. Aerial Work Platforms , Rule 3209 (11). Rule 3209 (12).
Employees in steel erection activity: - initial connecting - leading edge work in a controlled decking zone	2 stories or 30 feet, whichever is less.	Guardrail system, safety net system, personal fall arrest system, positioning device system, or fall restraint system.	Part 26. Steel Erection , Rule 2646. Rule 2648.
Employees using personal climbing equipment.	No minimum	Lineman's belt and safety strap, or safety net system.	Part 16. Power Transmission & Distribution , Rule 1634. Rule 1635.
Employees constructing electric transmission and distribution lines and related equipment.	No minimum	Lineman's belt, safety strap, lifelines, lanyards, and personal climbing equipment.	Part 16. Power Transmission and Distribution , Rule 1634. Rule 1635.
Employees on a work platform suspended from a crane or derrick.	No minimum	Guardrail system and personal fall arrest system.	Part 10. Cranes and Derricks , Rule 1015a. Rule 1018a.
Employees on a suspended work platform, working in a tunnel shaft or caisson.	No minimum	In accordance with Part 10.	Part 14. Tunnels, Shafts, Caissons and Cofferdams , Rule 1478.
Structural steel connectors riding the headache ball.	No minimum	Positioning device system or personal fall arrest system.	Part 28. Personnel Hoisting in Steel Erection , Rule 2809.

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