



Fall Prevention

Prevent workers from falling by use of fall restraint systems, or guardrail systems.

Designated Area

A distinct portion of a walking-working surface delineated by a warning line in which employees may perform work without additional fall protection.

Fall Protection

Protect workers from severe injury if they do fall by use of fall arrest systems.

Low-Slope Roof

A roof that has a slope less than or equal to a ratio of 4 in 12 (vertical to horizontal).

Warning Lines

Ropes, wires, or chains surrounding a work area and must be at least 6 feet from all sides.

SERVICE (1910 Standards)

Less Than 6 Feet from Roof Edge

Workers must be protected by a guardrail system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system.

6-15 Feet from Roof Edge

Workers must be protected by a guardrail system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system, or a designated area if the work is **both temporary and infrequent**.

15+ Feet from Roof Edge

Workers must be protected by a guardrail system, travel restraint system, personal fall arrest system, or a designated area if the work is **both temporary & infrequent**.

OR

Fall prevention/protection is not required if the work is **both temporary and infrequent**, and the employer implements and enforces a work rule prohibiting affected workers from going within fifteen feet of the roof's edge without an adequate fall prevention or protection system in place.

OSHA's Position

Mechanical service work does not meet the definition of "temporary and infrequent" if the task takes longer than it would to install or set up fall protection & the task is performed more than once a month, once a year, or when needed. MCAA is working to establish a reasonable interpretation of the standard.



CONSTRUCTION (1926 Standards)

All Distances from Roof Edge

Workers must be protected by fall prevention/protection when working six feet or more above a lower level.

Warning Lines: Less than 15 Feet from Roof Edge

Not permitted as a substitute for conventional fall protection for mechanical construction.

Warning Lines: 15+ Feet from Roof Edge

OSHA would consider the violation of its guardrail criteria to be de minimis if:

- The warning line meets or exceeds the requirements in the standard (Subpart M)
- No work or work-related activity is to take place in the area between the warning line and the edge
- The employer effectively implements a safe work rule prohibiting the employees from going past the warning line

OSHA's Position

There is no safe distance where a worker can work on a low-slope roof without fall prevention or fall protection when working six feet or more above a lower level with the exception of 15+ feet warning line example above.