



## Occupational Safety and Health Administration

---

- **Part Number:** 1926
- **Part Number Title:** Safety and Health Regulations for Construction
- **Subpart:** 1926 Subpart Q
- **Subpart Title:** Concrete and Masonry Construction
- **Standard Number:** [1926.701](#)
- **Title:** General requirements
- **GPO Source:** [e-CFR](#)

---

1926.701(a)

**Construction loads.** No construction loads shall be placed on a concrete structure or portion of a concrete structure unless the employer determines, based on information received from a person who is qualified in structural design, that the structure or portion of the structure is capable of supporting the loads.

[1926.701\(b\)](#)

**Reinforcing steel.** All protruding reinforcing steel, onto and into which employees could fall, shall be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement.

1926.701(c)

**Post-tensioning operations.**

1926.701(c)(1)

No employee (except those essential to the post-tensioning operations) shall be permitted to be behind the jack during tensioning operations.

[1926.701\(c\)\(2\)](#)

Signs and barriers shall be erected to limit employee access to the post-tensioning area during tensioning operations.

1926.701(d)

**Riding concrete buckets.** No employee shall be permitted to ride concrete buckets.

1926.701(e)

**Working under loads.**

1926.701(e)(1)

No employee shall be permitted to work under concrete buckets while buckets are being elevated or lowered into position.

1926.701(e)(2)

To the extent practical, elevated concrete buckets shall be routed so that no employee, or the fewest number of employees, are exposed to the hazards associated with falling concrete buckets.

1926.701(f)

**Personal protective equipment.** No employee shall be permitted to apply a cement, sand, and water mixture through a pneumatic hose unless the employee is wearing protective head and face equipment.

[59 FR 40730, Aug. 9, 1994]

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

200 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, DC 20210

📞 [1-800-321-OSHA](tel:1-800-321-OSHA)

[1-800-321-6742](tel:1-800-321-6742)

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH** **ABOUT THE SITE**

White House

Frequently Asked Questions

Freedom of Information Act

Disaster Recovery Assistance A - Z Index

Disclaimers

DisasterAssistance.gov

Freedom of Information Act - OSHA

Plug-ins Used on DOL.gov

USA.gov

Read The OSHA Newsletter

Accessibility Statement

No Fear Act Data

Subscribe to the OSHA Newsletter

Privacy & Security Statement

U.S. Office of Special CounselOSHA Publications

Important Website Notices

Office of Inspector General

Site Map

Connect With OSHA



[Site Map](#) | [Important Website Notices](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#)



## Occupational Safety and Health Administration

- **Part Number:** 1926
- **Part Number Title:** Safety and Health Regulations for Construction
- **Subpart:** 1926 Subpart M
- **Subpart Title:** Fall Protection
- **Standard Number:** 1926.501
- **Title:** Duty to have fall protection.
- **GPO Source:** e-CFR

1926.501(a)

*General.*

1926.501(a)(1)

This section sets forth requirements for employers to provide fall protection systems. All fall protection required by this section shall conform to the criteria set forth in § 1926.502 of this subpart.

1926.501(a)(2).

The employer shall determine if the walking/working surfaces on which its employees are to work have the strength and structural integrity to support employees safely. Employees shall be allowed to work on those surfaces only when the surfaces have the requisite strength and structural integrity.

1926.501(b).

1926.501(b)(1).

*Unprotected sides and edges.* Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

1926.501(b)(2).

*Leading edges.*

1926.501(b)(2)(i).

Each employee who is constructing a leading edge 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems. Exception: When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of § 1926.502.

Note: There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with § 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.

1926.501(b)(2)(ii).

Each employee on a walking/working surface 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level where leading edges are under construction, but who is not engaged in the leading edge work, shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system. If a guardrail system is chosen to provide the fall protection, and a controlled access zone has already been established for leading edge work, the control line may be used in lieu of a guardrail along the edge that parallels the leading edge.

1926.501(b)(3).

***Hoist areas.*** Each employee in a hoist area shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8 m) or more to lower levels by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. If guardrail systems, [or chain, gate, or guardrail] or portions thereof, are removed to facilitate the hoisting operation (e.g., during landing of materials), and an employee must lean through the access opening or out over the edge of the access opening (to receive or guide equipment and materials, for example), that employee shall be protected from fall hazards by a personal fall arrest system.

**1926.501(b)(4).**

*Holes.*

**1926.501(b)(4)(i).**

Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes.

**1926.501(b)(4)(ii).**

Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes (including skylights) by covers.

**1926.501(b)(4)(iii).**

Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from objects falling through holes (including skylights) by covers.

**1926.501(b)(5).**

*Formwork and reinforcing steel.* Each employee on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8 m) or more to lower levels by personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, or positioning device systems.

**1926.501(b)(6).**

*Ramps, runways, and other walkways.* Each employee on ramps, runways, and other walkways shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8 m) or more to lower levels by guardrail systems.

**1926.501(b)(7).**

*Excavations.*

**1926.501(b)(7)(i).**

Each employee at the edge of an excavation 6 feet (1.8 m) or more in depth shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, or barricades when the excavations are not readily seen because of plant growth or other visual barrier;

**1926.501(b)(7)(ii).**

Each employee at the edge of a well, pit, shaft, and similar excavation 6 feet (1.8 m) or more in depth shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, barricades, or covers.

**1926.501(b)(8)**

*Dangerous equipment.*

**1926.501(b)(8)(i)**

Each employee less than 6 feet (1.8 m) above dangerous equipment shall be protected from falling into or onto the dangerous equipment by guardrail systems or by equipment guards.

**1926.501(b)(8)(ii)**

Each employee 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above dangerous equipment shall be protected from fall hazards by guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, or safety net systems.

**1926.501(b)(9).**

*Overhand bricklaying and related work.*

1926.501(b)(9)(i)

Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each employee performing overhand bricklaying and related work 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels, shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or shall work in a controlled access zone.

1926.501(b)(9)(ii)

Each employee reaching more than 10 inches (25 cm) below the level of the walking/working surface on which they are working, shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system.

Note: Bricklaying operations performed on scaffolds are regulated by subpart L - Scaffolds of this part.

1926.501(b)(10)

*Roofing work on Low-slope roofs.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each employee engaged in roofing activities on low-slope roofs, with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or a combination of warning line system and guardrail system, warning line system and safety net system, or warning line system and personal fall arrest system, or warning line system and safety monitoring system. Or, on roofs 50-feet (15.25 m) or less in width (see Appendix A to subpart M of this part), the use of a safety monitoring system alone [i.e. without the warning line system] is permitted.

1926.501(b)(11)

*Steep roofs.* Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toeboards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

1926.501(b)(12)

*Precast concrete erection.* Each employee engaged in the erection of precast concrete members (including, but not limited to the erection of wall panels, columns, beams, and floor and roof "tees") and related operations such as grouting of precast concrete members, who is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems, unless another provision in paragraph (b) of this section provides for an alternative fall protection measure. Exception: When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of § 1926.502.

Note: There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with § 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.

1926.501(b)(13)

*Residential construction.* Each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of this section provides for an alternative fall protection measure. Exception: When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of § 1926.502.

Note: There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with § 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.

1926.501(b)(14)

*Wall openings.* Each employee working on, at, above, or near wall openings (including those with chutes attached) where the outside bottom edge of the wall opening is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels and the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches (1.0 m) above the walking/working surface, shall be protected from falling by the use of a guardrail system, a safety net system, or a personal fall arrest system.

1926.501(b)(15)

*Walking/working surfaces not otherwise addressed.* Except as provided in § 1926.500(a)(2) or in § 1926.501 (b)(1) through (b)(14), each employee on a walking/working surface 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system.

#### 1926.501(c)

*Protection from falling objects.* When an employee is exposed to falling objects, the employer shall have each employee wear a hard hat and shall implement one of the following measures:

##### 1926.501(c)(1)

Erect toeboards, screens, or guardrail systems to prevent objects from falling from higher levels; or,

##### 1926.501(c)(2)

Erect a canopy structure and keep potential fall objects far enough from the edge of the higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced; or,

##### 1926.501(c)(3)

Barricade the area to which objects could fall, prohibit employees from entering the barricaded area, and keep objects that may fall far enough away from the edge of a higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced.

[59 FR 40732, Aug. 9, 1994; 60 FR 5131, Jan. 26, 1995]

---

[OSHA](#)   [Standards](#)   [Enforcement](#)   [Topics](#)   [Media Center](#)   [Contact Us](#)



#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

200 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, DC 20210

1-800-321-OSHA

1-800-321-6742

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ABOUT THE SITE

White House	Frequently Asked Questions	Freedom of Information Act
Disaster Recovery Assistance A - Z Index		Disclaimers
DisasterAssistance.gov	Freedom of Information Act - OSHA	Plug-ins Used on DOL.gov
USA.gov	Read The OSHA Newsletter	Accessibility Statement
No Fear Act Data	Subscribe to the OSHA Newsletter	Privacy & Security Statement
U.S. Office of Special Counsel	OSHA Publications	Important Website Notices
	Office of Inspector General	Site Map

#### Connect With OSHA



[Site Map](#) | [Important Website Notices](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#)