

Fall Protection Standards – Active Systems

Fall protection is required for all open-sided platforms, floors or walkways that are 4 feet or higher off the ground or next level. The requirement includes elevated surfaces, such as rooftops, where access is needed for maintenance activities. Standards must be referenced for design requirements for passive fall protection systems and their components. If an adequate passive system is not in place, an active system of fall protection must be employed such as a fall arrest or restraint system. Below are design requirements for active fall protection systems.

- OSHA General Industry Standards, 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D - Walking-Working Surfaces
- OSHA General Industry Standards, 29 CFR 1910.140 - Personal Fall Protection Systems
- OSHA Construction Standards, 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M - Fall Protection
- ANSI Z359, Fall Protection Standards
- The system shall be designed to support required number of users (typically two) in case of a fall and to prevent the users from free falling more than 6 feet. All components shall be designed by the fall protection system supplier and shall meet the applicable requirements of ANSI and applicable OSHA regulations.
- The selection, design, and installation of active fall protection systems shall be performed under the supervision of a Qualified Person with experience and trained in design and use of such systems.
- Design for fall restraint is a preferred control method over fall arrest.
- All components must be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- Calculations must be prepared under the supervision of a registered Professional Engineer and Qualified Person.
- The Professional Engineer who oversaw the design of the system must affix their professional seal to each drawing and calculation package issued.
- Operation and Maintenance Data shall be prepared per Z359.2 & ANSI Z359.6.
- A Qualified Person must verify that all manufactured units have been installed in accordance with specifications and details, and will function as intended.
- Systems must be labeled and include user instructions and limitations at the access points.
- Adequate lighting must be provided to allow users to identify fall hazards and the active fall protection system components.
- Safe access must be provided to anchorages so that users are continuously protected.
- Required inspections specified for the system, such as annual inspections, must be identified and planned for.