

Lesson Review: Fall Protection

According to OSHA section 1926.501, employers and employees need to do the following when it comes to fall protection:

- Select fall protection systems appropriate for given situations
- Use proper construction and installation of safety systems
- Supervise employees properly
- Use safe work procedures

Dangerous equipment that is 6 feet or less below walking/working surface, each employee must be protected from falling onto or into dangerous equipment by the appropriate fall protection system. This also includes any fall hazards associated with dangerous equipment. OSHA section 1926.502, describes the required protection systems used by employers to safeguard employees from fall hazards

There are several types of safety equipment used as, or in combination with, fall protection systems to prevent fall hazards. These include:

- Belts
- Harnesses
- Lanyards
- Lifelines
- Shock absorbers
- Safety nets
- Rope grabs.

If no fall protection system is in place, the employer must implement a safety monitoring system. A safety monitor is a competent person qualified in all areas of fall protection who will monitor the safety of workers.

Remember: Employers must ensure that each employee is trained by a qualified person in all areas of fall protection. The employer must also keep a written certification record in compliance with OSHA standards and retrain any employee when necessary.



All safety equipment used in fall protection must be visually inspected before each use. There should also be routine inspections. Equipment should be properly cleaned and stored in a clean, dry place that is free of any harmful elements.