



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

www.OSHA.gov

A-Z Index: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Search OSHA



[Home](#) [Definitions](#) [Scope](#) [Inspection Guide](#) [Additional Assistance](#) [F A Q](#) [Viewing/Printing Instructions](#) [Credits](#)

Fall Protection

Topics

[Site Preparation](#)

[Cranes](#)

[Structural Stability](#)

[Metal Buildings](#)

[\(Non-Hoist\)](#)

[Overhead Hazards](#)

[Fall Protection](#)

[Training](#)

1926.760 Fall Protection

In steel erection, a new, very narrow working surface is constantly being created as skeletal steel is erected at various heights. For many steel erectors, especially connectors, the work starts at the top level of the structure. This means that anchor points above foot level are often limited or unavailable. The special circumstances of steel erection can make conventional fall protection very difficult to deploy below 15 feet. For this reason, the following requirements and exceptions in the the steel erection fall protection standard ([1926.760](#)) have been made.



- [General requirements](#)
- [Connectors](#)
- [Controlled Decking Zone \(CDZ\)](#)
- [Criteria for fall protection equipment](#)
- [Custody of fall protection](#)

General requirements

[TOP](#)

- Employees who are on a walking/working surface with an unprotected edge more than **15 feet above a lower level** must be protected by conventional fall protection [[1926.760\(a\)\(1\)](#)].
- **Perimeter safety cables** must be installed at the final interior and exterior perimeters of multi-story structures *as soon as the decking has been installed* [[1926.760\(a\)\(2\)](#)].
- Connectors and employees working in **controlled decking zones** must be protected from fall hazards as provided below [[1926.760\(a\)\(3\)](#)]. (See [Connectors](#) and [Controlled Decking Zone](#).)



[View
Accident Report](#)

Note: The perimeter safety cables protect the detail crew that follows the decking crew.

Connectors



- Connectors must:
 - be protected by **conventional fall protection** when working on a surface with an unprotected edge **more than two stories or 30 feet** above a lower level [[1926.760\(b\)\(1\)](#)], and
 - have completed the **connector training** described in [1926.761 \[1926.760\(b\)\(2\)\]](#).
- While working at heights **over 15 and up to 30 feet**, connectors must [[1926.760\(b\)\(3\)](#)]:
 - be provided with a complete **personal fall arrest system** or other allowable fall protection, and
 - **wear the equipment** necessary for tying off.



View
Accident Report

Controlled Decking Zone (CDZ)



- A CDZ can be established as a substitute for fall protection where metal decking is initially being installed and forms the **leading edge** of a work area **over 15 and up to 30 feet** above a lower level [[1926.760 \(c\)](#)].
- Leading-edge workers in a CDZ are required to:
 - be protected from fall hazards **above 2 stories or 30 feet (whichever is less)** [[1926.760\(c\)\(1\)](#)], and
 - have **completed CDZ training** in accordance with [1926.761 \[1926.760\(c\)\(4\)\]](#).
- Employees who are not engaged in leading-edge work and properly trained in the hazards involved are **prohibited from entering** the CDZ [[1926.760\(c\)\(2\)](#)] and [[1926.760\(c\)](#)].



(4)].

- The CDZ is required to:
 - be no more than **90 feet wide and 90 feet deep** from any leading edge [[1926.760\(c\)\(3\)](#)],
 - not exceed **3,000 square feet** of unsecured decking [[1926.760\(c\)\(5\)](#)],
 - have designated and clearly marked **boundaries with control lines** or the equivalent [[1926.760\(c\)\(3\)](#)],



Note: Control lines are commonly used as a marker because they create a highly visible boundary.

- have **safety deck attachments** placed from the leading edge back to the control line [[1926.760\(c\)\(6\)](#)], and
- have at least **two safety deck attachments** for each metal decking panel [[1926.760\(c\)\(6\)](#)].
- **Final deck attachments** and the installation of **shear connectors** are prohibited from being done in the CDZ. [[1926.760\(c\)\(7\)](#)]



Criteria for fall protection equipment



- **Guardrail systems, safety-net systems, personal fall-arrest systems, positioning-device systems** and their components must conform to the criteria in [1926.502](#). (See [Appendix G.](#)) [[1926.760\(d\)\(1\)](#)]
- Fall-arrest system components must be used in **fall-restraint systems** and conform to the criteria in [1926.502](#). (See [Appendix G.](#)) [[1926.760\(d\)\(2\)](#)]
- Either **body belts or body harnesses** may be used in fall restraint systems for steel erection [[1926.760\(d\)\(2\)](#)].
- **Perimeter safety cables** must meet the criteria for guardrail systems in [1926.502](#). (See [Appendix G.](#)) [[1926.760\(d\)\(3\)](#)]



Custody of fall protection

- The steel erector may **leave fall protection in place** so it may be used by other trades only if the **controlling contractor** [[1926.760\(e\)](#)]:
 - has **directed the steel erector** to leave the fall protection in place [[1926.760\(e\)\(1\)](#)], and
 - has **inspected and accepted control and responsibility** of the fall protection before authorizing other trades to work in the area [[1926.760\(e\)\(2\)](#)].

[Site Preparation](#) | [Cranes](#) | [Structural Stability](#) | [Metal Buildings](#) | [\(Non-Hoist\)Overhead Hazards](#) | [Fall Protection](#) | [Training](#)
[eTool Home](#) | [Additional Assistance](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Viewing/Printing Instructions](#) | [Credits](#) | [Definitions](#) | [Scope](#) | [Inspection Guide](#)

 [Back to Top](#)

www.osha.gov

www.dol.gov

[Contact Us](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Customer Survey](#)
[Privacy and Security Statement](#) | [Disclaimers](#)

Occupational Safety & Health Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Page last updated: 01/31/2009