## WORKING AT HEIGHTS / FALL PROTECTION

The purpose of this procedure is to define the requirements and satisfy legislation for the use, care and selection of Fall Protection Equipment.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all Employees, Contractors and Visitors who are exposed to the hazard of falling more than three (3) meters.

DEFINITIONS

**CSA** – Canadian Standards Association.

**OHSA** – Occupational Health and Safety Act.

STANDARDS / PROCEDURES

General

As per Ont. Reg. 851, S. 85: Worker(s) exposed to the hazard of falling more than three (3) metres, the worker shall be protected by a safety belt or harness and lifeline that is:

* Adequately secured to a fixed support, and arranged so that the worker cannot fall freely for a vertical distance of more than 1.5 meter; and,
* The fall arrest system shall,
1. Have sufficient capacity to absorb twice the energy and twice the load that under the circumstances of its use may be transmitted to it; and,
2. Be equipped with a shock absorber or other devices to limit the maximum arresting force to 8.0 kilonewtons to the worker. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 851, s. 85; O. Reg. 420/10, s. 14.

All employees are to follow manufacturer’s instructions in the use, care, storage, inspection and maintenance of all fall protection equipment.

Guardrails

As per Ont. Reg. 851, S. 13.1; Worker(s) should be adequately protected by a guardrail system:

* Around the perimeter of an uncovered opening in a floor, roof or other surface to which a worker has access;
* At an open side of,
1. A raised floor, mezzanine, balcony, gallery, landing, platform, walkway, stile, ramp or other surface; or,
2. A vat, bin or tank, the top of which is less than 107 centimeters above the surrounding floor, ground, platform or other surface.
* Around a machine, electrical installation, place or thing that is likely to endanger the safety of any worker.

As per Ont. Reg. 851, S. 14.1; A guardrail shall:

* Have a top rail located not less than 91 and not more than 107 centimeters above the surface to be guarded;
* Have a mid-rail;
* If tools or other objects may fall on a worker, have a toe-board that extends from the surface to be guarded to a height of at least 125 millimeters; and,
* Be free of splinters and protruding nails.

As per On. Reg. 851, S. 14.2; A guardrail shall be constructed to meet the structural requirements for guards as set out in the Building Code.

As per Ont. Reg. 851, S. 15; A cover on an opening in a floor, roof or other surface shall be:

* Secured in place; and,
* Constructed to meet the structural requirements for loads due to the use of floors and roofs as set out in the Building Code.

**ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Employer**:

* Ensure the premises of the workplace is in compliance with Ont. Regulation 851 as it relates to the use, care, maintenance and storage of Fall Protection Equipment.

**Management**:

* Provide all required equipment to affected Workers; and,
* Provide appropriate training for affected Workers.

**Supervisor:**

* Ensure all Worker(s) exposed to the hazard of falling more than three (3) meters are aware of known and potential fall hazards;
* Ensure that all efforts have been exhausted to protect the Worker(s) from being exposed to falls before using a fall restraint, travel restraint and / or fall arrest system;
* Ensure there is a fall protection rescue procedure is developed and implemented when required prior to any work activities start involving the use of fall restraint, travel restraint and / or a fall arrest system; and,
* Must ensure Workers are adequately trained in fall protection systems including its use and practical application.

**Worker**:

* Visually inspect their equipment before each use – if it is damaged, worn, or defective it must be immediately removed from service and tagged; and,
* Use and maintain the equipment provided as trained and instructed.

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