



# Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office  
**Floating Plant Protection**

Bulletin 29-09

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (Yellow Book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for floating plant protection as stated below.

19.A.07m. When three or more floating plant are configured for stationary work, a competent person shall identify any openings between decks of stationary vessels or vessels and other structures that create fully enclosed water areas (duck ponds) into which personnel can fall. If such openings are detected, means shall be taken to protect personnel from the hazard.

(1) When practical, duck pond protection will consist of guardrails, nets or other physical barriers to prevent employees from falling into the openings.

(2) When physical barriers are not practical, ladders and life rings shall be installed in each enclosed water area to allow personnel to self-rescue. Ladders may be a rigid type or Jacob's ladder, and must be securely anchored to the vessel or structure. Life rings shall have a sufficient length of rope to allow them to float on the water surface and the rope shall be securely anchored to the vessel. The number and placement of ladders and life rings shall be sufficient so that the maximum swimming distance to them is no more than 25 feet. Ladders and life rings may be retracted during reconfiguration or movement of plant.

