



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office
Fall Protection - General

Bulletin 32-09

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

21.A GENERAL. The fall protection threshold height requirement is 6 ft (1.8 m) for ALL WORK covered by this manual, unless specified differently below, whether performed by Government or Contractor work forces, to include steel erection activities, systems-engineered activities (prefabricated) metal buildings, residential (wood) construction and scaffolding work.

> NOTE: Floating plant and vessels are excluded from these requirements except where specifically cited in Sections 19.D and 19.E.

21.A.01 Workers exposed to fall hazards shall be protected from falling to a lower level by the use of standard guardrail as defined in 21.E.01.b, work platforms, temporary floors, safety nets, engineered fall protection systems, personal fall arrest systems, or the equivalent, in the following situations:

- a. On access ways (excluding ladders), work platforms, or walking/working surfaces from which workers may fall 6 ft (1.8 m) or more;
- b. For access ways or work platforms over water, machinery, or dangerous operations;
- c. When installing or removing sheet piles, h-piles, cofferdams, or other interlocking materials from which workers may fall 6 ft (1.8 m) or more. **> NOTE: The use of sheet pile stirrups as a fall protection method is prohibited;**
- d. Whenever workers are exposed to falls from unprotected sides or edges; fixed ladders over 20 ft (6 m) in height; roof or floor openings; holes and skylights; unstable surfaces; leading edge work, excavations; scaffolds; formwork; work platforms, rebar assembly, steel erection and engineered metal buildings;

> For Steel Erection activities, when connectors are working at same connecting point, they shall connect one end of the structural member before going out to connect the other end. Whenever possible, the connectors shall straddle the beam instead of walking along the top flange. Connectors shall remain 100% tied off.

e. Where there is a possibility of a fall from any height onto dangerous equipment, into a hazardous environment, or onto an impalement hazard.

f. For all USACE-owned/operated permanent facilities with open-sided floors or platforms 4 ft (1.2m) or more above adjacent floor or ground level, see Section 24.A.01.d.



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