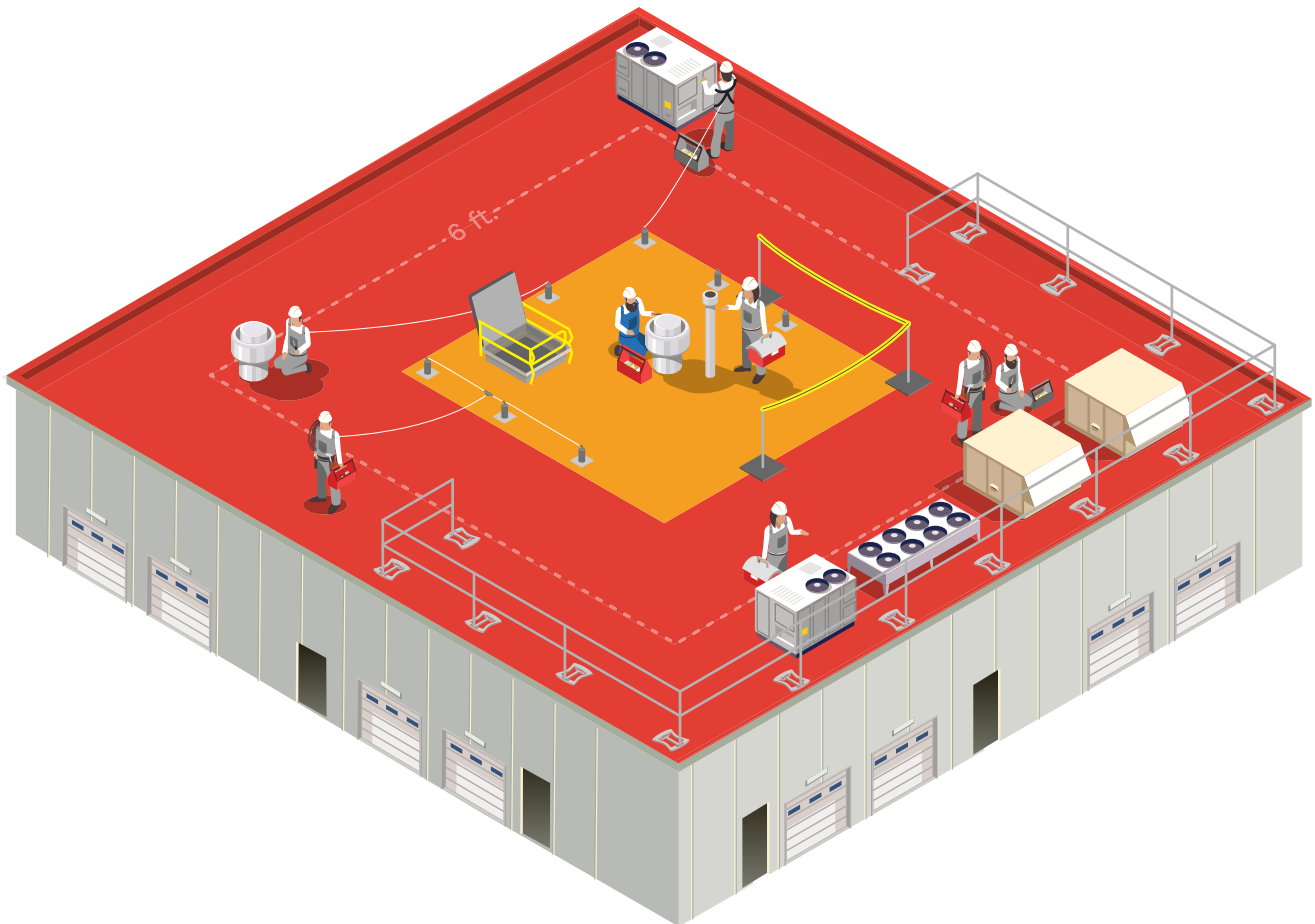


# Safe Access for Rooftop Workers

## The Basics You Need To Know About This New OSHA RULE

OSHA's new rule 1910.28(b)(13), defines low-slope roofs as a roof "having a slope less than or equal to 4 in 12 (vertical to horizontal)." This means that the roof's slope does not exceed a 4 inch vertical rise for every 12 inches of its horizontal length.

In accordance with the new rule, employers may choose from several types of fall protection measures depending on the distance they work from a fall hazard. In designing fall protection systems, we identify two distinct workzones outlined in the code:



ZONE  
**1**

LESS THAN  
15 FEET FROM  
ROOF EDGE

ZONE  
**2**

15 FEET OR  
MORE FROM  
ROOF EDGE

# ZONE 1



**DANGER LEVEL:  
EXTREMELY HIGH**

## LESS THAN 15 FEET FROM ROOF EDGE

Because a worker’s risk of falling off the roof is highest when he performs tasks this close to the edge, OSHA believes it is an absolute **MUST** to use a conventional fall protection system.

### Solutions:

Guardrails, safety nets, travel restraint, fall arrest



When the location of the task is between 6 and 15 feet from the fall hazard: OSHA states that in these “very limited situations,” when the work is “infrequent and temporary,” an employer may use an alternative safety measure referred to as a “designated area” or “warning line.” OSHA specifically addresses the requirements of designated areas in 29 CFR 1910.29(d)(2).

# ZONE 2



**DANGER LEVEL:  
HIGH**

## 15 FEET OR MORE FROM ROOF EDGE

For tasks considered regular and routine maintenance, OSHA requires employers to provide a conventional fall protection system or a designated area. However, if work is both “infrequent and temporary,” employers do not have to provide any fall protection. Instead, work rules that prohibit employees from going within 15 feet of the roof edge must be implemented and strictly enforced.

### Solutions:

Guardrails, safety nets, travel restraint, fall arrest, warning lines/designated areas.



**REGULAR AND ROUTINE  
MAINTENANCE WORKERS**

For the purposes of OSHA’s rule, the terms

## “INFREQUENT” AND “TEMPORARY” ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

**INFREQUENT** work refers to tasks or jobs performed only occasionally, when necessary, and at sporadic intervals. OSHA provides a few examples of such work, including annual maintenance and/or servicing of equipment, monthly or quarterly replacement of batteries or HVAC filters, or addressing equipment outages.



**INFREQUENT AND  
TEMPORARY WORKERS**

**TEMPORARY** work means that the time workers need to finish their task is brief. These short tasks include those that workers are able to perform in less time than it takes to install conventional fall protection, as well as work that can be completed all at once, in a single trip to the roof.

When the duration of the task is short and the frequency is very minimal, OSHA believes worker exposure to fall hazards is somewhat limited.

### CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE



(844) 471-2025  
fallprotect.com

24400 Sperry Dr  
Westlake, OH 44145