

GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL ROOFER FALL PROTECTION OSHA 1926 SUBPART M

1. Generally, per 1926.501(b)(13), conventional fall protection (guardrails, harnesses and safety lines, etc.) are required for work at or above 6'.
 2. OSHA Instruction STD 3.1 permits some exceptions for GROUP 4 [roofing] under some conditions.
 - a. Fall Protection plan is required, but does not have to be written, nor specific to the jobsite.
 - b. "Alternative Procedures" are required.
 - c. Must be single-family buildings and of wood framing construction. (some limited commercial applications permitted. i.e. a wood-framed porch on a non-residential building)
- I. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR GROUP 4: ROOFING WORK (REMOVAL, REPAIR, OR INSTALLATION OF WEATHERPROOFING ROOFING MATERIALS SUCH AS SHINGLES, TILE AND TAR PAPER).

Restriction on Application for Roofing Work. The alternative procedures in this Instruction may **only** be used for this work where: (a) the roof slope is 8 in 12 or less, **and** (b) the fall distance, measured from the eave to the ground level, is 25 feet or less.

General Requirements.

Trained Workers Only.

Only workers who have been trained to be proficient in the alternative methods of fall protection shall be allowed onto the roof. In addition, each affected employee shall be trained to ensure specific awareness of the fall hazards associated with work on roofs with rake edges ("rake edges" are inclined roof edges, such as those on the gable end of a building).

Slip Hazards

The roof surfaces shall be inspected for slipping hazards. The employer shall either eliminate any such hazards or take effective measures to have workers avoid them. The employer shall have workers wear appropriate footwear to reduce the potential for slipping.

Bad Weather.

When adverse weather (such as high winds, rain, snow, or sleet) creates a hazardous condition, roofing operations shall be suspended until the hazardous condition no longer exists.

Roof holes/openings.

The employer shall have any damaged portions of the roof deck repaired as soon as practicable. Any holes (including skylight openings) or other areas where employees would not have safe footing shall be covered or surrounded by guardrails that comply with the requirements of 1926.502.

Ladders/Scaffolds.

If ladders or scaffolds are used, they shall be erected and maintained in accordance with the requirements of Subparts X and L of OSHA's construction standards. In addition, employees shall be trained in accordance with the requirements of Subparts X & L.

Access To Roof.

Employers shall not allow workers to ascend or descend the roof's slope within 6 feet of the rake edge except where that limitation would prevent the performance of work.

Location of Materials.

Supplies and materials shall not be stored within 6 feet of the rake edge, or three feet where tile roof systems are being installed.

Impalement Hazards.

The area below the eaves and rakes shall be kept clear of materials and other objects which could pose impalement or other hazards, or properly guarded.

Safety Monitors and Slide Guards (for roofs with an eave height of up to and including 25 feet).

Roof Slope (Any Roof Type): Up to 4 in 12. The employer must use either a safety monitoring system that complies with 29 CFR 1926.502, or roofing slide guards. If slide guards are used, they must be built and installed in accordance with the requirements set out below.

Roof Slope (Except Tile or Metal Roofs): Over 4 in 12 (and up to 8 in 12): Slide guards are required.

Roof Slope (Tile or Metal Roofs): Up to (and including) 8 in 12: The safety monitoring system may be used instead of slide guards.

Roof Slope (Any Roof Type): Over 8 in 12: Alternatives to the requirements of the standards are **not** available.

Eave Height Over 25 feet (Any Slope, Any Roof Type): Alternatives to the requirements of the standards are **not** available. *(However, properly erected scaffolds may be erected as "catch platforms" to lessen eave height.)*

Slide Guards: Requirements for Materials, Configuration and Installation.

Roof Slope: 6 in 12 or less:

Material. All slide guards must be constructed of 2"x 6" (nominal) stock.

Installation. No more than three rows of roofing material (installed across the lower eave) shall be applied before installing the slide guards. The roof jacks (or similar supports) shall be installed using nails long enough to withstand an employee sliding into the guard.

Configuration. The face of the slide guard must be perpendicular (about 90 degrees) to the surface of the roof. There must be continuous slide guards along the eave.

Roof Slope: Over 6 in 12 (up to and including 8 in 12):

Material: 2"x 6" stock.

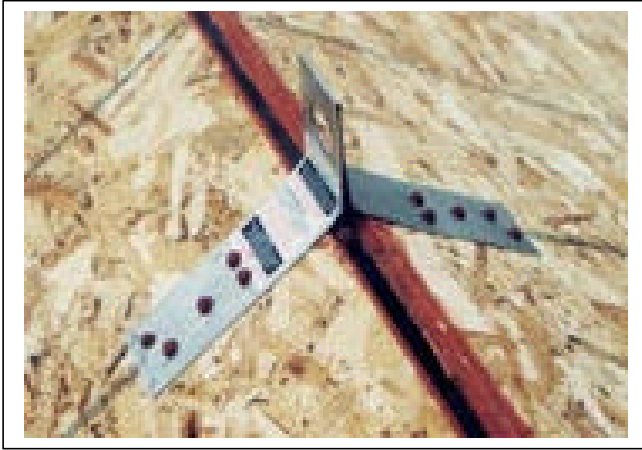
Installation: Continuous slide guards shall be installed along the eave, as described above. Additional slide guards shall be installed below each work area at intervals not to exceed eight feet. They shall be installed using the following procedure: the employee, while standing on the slide guard below, secures the roof jacks for the next slide guard with nails and then installs the planks. The employee then climbs up to the new slide guard to continue the roofing work. This sequence is repeated as work proceeds up the roof.

Configuration: The continuous slide guards at the eave must be at about 90 degrees to the roof surface, as described above. The additional slide guards need not be continuous -- but they must be long enough to protect the work area. They do not have to be at 90 degrees to the roof surface.

Removal: Once the roofing material is installed to the ridge, the employee is to climb down to the next lower slide guard and remove the upper slide guard. The employee repeats this process down the roof until all the slide guards are removed. Only when the roofing job is completed may the slide guards at the eave be removed.

NOTE: This information is intended as a general guide only, and not a substitute for a complete fall protection plan. You should consult OSHA 29 CFR 1925.501 for specifics relating to residential construction fall protection.

TYPICAL PERSONAL FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT



ANCHORS

**LANYARD/
CONNECTOR**



**SHOCK
ABSORBER**



**TYPICAL
BODY HARNESS**



**FALL
PROTECTION
KIT**

NOTICE: Photos are provided for general information only. Fall protection equipment must be matched for compatibility of each component with the others. Anchors require special placement and special fasteners. Users of fall arrest systems require specialized training. Consult with OSHA 1926.500, 501, 502, 503 and appendicies.

SOURCES OF FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Ashley Sling (Atlanta Area)

<http://www.ashleysling.com/fall.htm>

Phone: (404) 691-2604

Fax: (404) 691-3608

200 Great Southwest Parkway

Atlanta, GA 30336

Bairstow Lifting Products (Atlanta Area)

www.bairstow.com

Phone Numbers:

Toll Free: 800-241-8990

Phone: 404-351-2600

Fax: 404-355-2046

1785 Ellsworth Industrial Drive, N.W.

Atlanta, GA 30318

Industrial Safety Company

www.indlsafety.com

1390 Neubrecht Rd.

Lima, Ohio 45801-3196

1-800-809-4805 Fax 1-800-854-5498

Lab Safety Supply (Ready-Roofer Fall Protection Kit & other equipment) (Lab Safety also has excellent information sheets)

http://www.labsafety.com/store/product_group.asp?dept_id=32608&cat_prefix=3WA

1-800-356-0783 or Fax 1-800-543-9910

Safety Connection

<http://www.safetyconnection.com/equipment.htm>

1-800-480-3521

Note: No particular supplier or product endorsement is made by inclusion on this list.