

**AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA LOCATION
FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM
May 1998**

I. PURPOSE

This section will establish the minimum criteria for employees when working above ground, floors or other work platforms.

II. SCOPE

This section applies to all employees when working four (4) feet or more above the adjacent ground, floor or other work surface, except ladders.

A. Fall Protection Requirements

- 1. Employees will be provided with adequate fall protection whenever they are more than four (4) feet above the adjacent ground, floor or other work surfaces.**
- 2. Any time a worker is exposed to a fall potential of four (4) feet or more, adequate fall protection will be provided.**

B. Fall Protection Devices

- 1. Guardrail: Standard guardrails will be provided along the exposed sides of platforms where the fall potential is four (4) feet or more or where the employee could fall into moving equipment, corrosive chemicals or an impalement hazard. A standard guardrail is 42 inches high with a 21 inch midrail and a four (4) inch toeboard within 1/4" of the platform.**
- 2. Stair Railing: A standard stair railing will be provided on the open sides of any steps that have four (4) or more**

risers. A standard railing is between 30 and 34 inches measured from the leading edge of the tread.

3. Floor Opening: Every floor opening measuring twelve (12) inches or more in its least dimension will be provided with a cover or guardrail. The cover or guardrail will be designed to prevent persons from accidentally walking into the opening and shall also be so designed as not to create an additional hazard.

4. Fixed Ladders: Employees will be protected from falling from fixed ladders when the fall potential is 20 feet or more by cages or ladder safety devices.

Whenever a guardrail, stair railing, floor opening or hole cover will not provide the protection necessary to prevent a fall, the following devices will be provided:

- Personal lifeline systems including harness, body belt and life-line; or
- Safety net; or
- Climbing protection systems such as climbing safety devices used on fixed ladders when a cage cannot be used.

C. Fall Protection Equipment

1. All fall protection equipment will be maintained in safe operating condition at all times.
2. All fall protection equipment will be inspected daily prior to use.
3. All fall protection devices will be removed from service and examined when subjected to actual fall conditions.
4. All fall protection devices will be tested using the frequency and load requirements specified in the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Fall Protection Standard or consensus standards.

D. Training. When an employee is hired, whenever there is a change in assignment and annually thereafter they will receive the following training:

- **When fall protection is required**
- **What fall protection devices are available**
- **Maintenance and inspection requirements for fall protection devices**