

General Industry Threshold Heights Requiring Fall Prevention/ Protection

Condition	Thresh old	Method	Standard and Rule
Over dangerous equipment (includes vats, tanks, electrical equipment, machinery, equipment or machinery with protruding parts)	< 4 feet	Guardrail, travel restraint, or equipment guarded to eliminate the hazard	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, Rule 1910.28(b)(6)
	>4 feet	Guardrail system, safety net, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	
Unprotected Edge	4 feet	Guardrail system, safety net, personal fall arrest system	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, 1910.28(b)(1)
Vehicle servicing pit	<10 feet	Limited access to authorized/trained workers, contrasting markings 6 feet from edge, caution signs	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, 1910.28(b)(8)
Holes (including skylights)	4 feet	Covers, Guardrail system, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, Rule 1910.28(b)(3)
Wall opening (with or without chute)	4 feet	Guardrail system, safety net, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, 1910.28(b)(7)
Fixed ladder	< 24 feet	None Required	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, 1910.28(b)(9)
	>24 feet	Installed prior to 11/19/2018- Personal fall arrest system, ladder safety system, cage or well New installed after 11/19/2018- Personal fall arrest system or ladder safety system All fixed ladders on or after 11/1//2036- Personal fall arrest system or ladder safety system	
Portable ladder		None Required	
Scaffold	10 feet	Guardrail system, safety net, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	Part 2 . Walking-Working Surfaces, 1910.28(12)
Rope Descent System	4 feet	Personal fall arrest system	

Low-slope roof	< 6 feet from edge	Guardrail system, safety net, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	Part 2. Walking-Working Surfaces , 1910.28(13)
	>6 feet < 15 feet	Guardrail system, safety net, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system, or use a designated area system if work is infrequent and temporary	
	>15 feet	Not required if infrequent and temporary, but must implement and enforce rule	
Stationary refuse packer hopper opening	No minimum	Guardrail	Part 17. Refuse Packer Units , Rule 1732(1)
Overhead crane, footwalk or catwalk	No minimum	Guardrail	Part 18. Overhead & Gantry Cranes , Rule 1835(2)
Personnel platforms - overhead, underhung, crawler cranes, powered industrial trucks, tractors	No minimum	Guardrail	Part 18 , Part 19 , Part 20 , Part 21 , Part 22
Underhung crane catwalk	No minimum	Guardrail	Part 20. Underhung Cranes & Monorail Systems , Rule 2016(3)
Manlifts	25 feet No minimum	Guardrail (emergency landing) Entrances and exits to manlifts	Part 25. Manlifts , Rules 1910.68 (b)(6)(v) and 1910.68 (b)(8)

This chart provides a breakdown of the fall protection requirements of general industry standards. Check to see if specific rules relate to your industry or activities. It's important that you look at the specific language in the standard, which can be found by clicking on the hyperlink.

Condition	Threshold	Method	Standard and Rule
When no specific rule applies - climbing on machinery or equipment not equipped with a platform and standard barrier	4 feet	Guardrail system, travel restraint, personal fall arrest system	Part 2. Walking-Working Surfaces , Rule 1910.28(b)(15)
At or near rolls of board hammer	No minimum	A fixed or portable platform equipped with guardrail system.	Part 42. Forging , Rule 4249(2)
Crucible or furnace platform, melting furnace pit Non-ferrous crucible/ furnace	No minimum No minimum	Guardrail system. Grating or tailing	Part 44. Foundries , Rules 4436(3), 4451(b), 4493(1)
Open bin, bunker, hopper	<36 inches above working level	Grated opening or guardrail system	Part 52. Sawmills , Rule 5229(1)

Aerial lift	No minimum	Personal Fall Arrest System (follow lift manufacturers specifications for fall protection)	Part 58. Aerial Work Platforms , Rule 5836(1)(2)
Aloft in a tree	No minimum	Safety belt, tree-trimming saddle belt, rope saddle, safety strap	Part 53. Tree Trimming & Removal , Rule 5331(1)
Spray equipment from a moving vehicle	No minimum	Seat belt, guardrail system	Part 53. Tree Trimming & Removal , Rule 5344
Oil rig floor or other surfaces	10 feet	Safety belt or harness and lanyard (fall restraint)	Part 57. Oil and Gas Drilling and Servicing Operations , Rule 5713
Mounting machinery * Plastic molding only	No minimum	Platform or ladder only	Part 62. Plastic Molding , Rule 6223
Catwalk (Pulp and paper) Catwalk – dangerous equipment	4 feet No minimum	Guardrail system Guardrail system	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6322(5)
Flume or water runway used to transport logs	No minimum	Guardrail system	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6343(1)
Inclined walkway along jack ladder	No minimum	Stair rail	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6343(2)
Barker walkway	No minimum	Guardrail system	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6346(3)(4)
Pulper vessel, beater tub	Opening < 42 inches from floor or work platform	Guardrail system	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6361(1)
Bleacher, opening & platform	No minimum	Guardrail system	Part 63. Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Mills , Rule 6362
Aerial apparatus-firefighting	No minimum	Safety belt system	Part 74. Fire Fighting , Rule 7424(2)
Stand on or in stored grain Receiving pits	No minimum	Body harness & lifeline with observer and communication Grating with 2.5-inch maximum opening	Part 77. Grain Handling Facilities , Rule 1910.272(g)(2) & (g)(3)
Working above ground in tree	No minimum	Climbing rope & safety saddle	Part 86. Electric Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution , 1910.269(r)(8)
Cover removed – enclosed space	No minimum	Railing, temporary cover, or other barrier	Part 86. continued , 1910.269(e)(5)
Elevated locations i.e. poles, towers, similar structures	More than 4 feet above ground	Fall arrest equipment, work positioning equipment or travel restricting equipment with 6 feet free fall limit	Part 86. continued , 1910.269(g)(2)(iv)(C) (3) (see Notes 1 & 2)

Cover removed-confined space	No minimum	Railing, temporary cover or barrier	Part 90. Confined Space Entry , 1910.146(c)(5)(ii)(B)
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Contact: Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division
Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)
517-284-7720 or www.michigan.gov/miosha

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