OSHA Final Rule to Update General Industry: Walking-Working Surfaces and Fall Protection Systems

Presented by Bill Young
What is the OSHA WWS Rule

Intended to better protect workers in General Industry (GI) by:

• Updating and clarifying standards
• Adding training requirements
• Adding inspection requirements

The rule updates and revises the GI Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment standards found in 29 CFR 1910, subparts D, F and I
What’s Encompassed In The Rule?

• New requirements for a variety of walking-working surfaces throughout Subpart D
• Additional new requirements under Subpart I, Personal Protective Equipment

Effective date: This final rule became effective on January 17, 2017.
What’s Encompassed In The Rule?

- Reorganization of the rule

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?
Workplace Inspection

- Identify and evaluate slip, trip and fall hazards in the workplace.
  - This assessment must be done in accordance with 1910.132(d)(2) which requires a written certification
    - Workplace evaluated
    - The person certifying the evaluation was performed, and
    - The date(s) of the hazard assessment
PPE and Training

- Provide PPE or Personal Fall Arrest Systems
- Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of all walking-working surfaces in the workplace.
- Provide training (1910.30)
  - Recognize fall Hazards and procedures to minimize hazards.
  - The use of personal fall protection
  - Proper ladder climbing techniques
  - The use of dockboards
  - Training conducted by a qualified person
Fall Protection Requirements

- The standard established protection from fall hazards (4’ trigger) and the presumption that one of the following is feasible: 1910.28(b)(1) & 3.
  - Guardrail system
  - Safety Nets
  - Personal Fall Arrest Systems
Fall Prevention and Protection
Protection From Falling Objects

• 1910.28(c)(3)

• Barricading the area into which objects could fall, prohibiting employees from entering the barricaded area, and keeping objects far enough from an edge or opening to prevent them from falling to a lower level.
Self Closing Gates

• The new standard establishes the requirements for self-closing gates at ladder way openings. 1910.28(b)(3)(iv and 1910.29(b)(13)

• 1910.28(b)(3)(iv)

• Each employee is protected from falling into a ladderway floor hole or ladderway platform hole by a guardrail system and toeboards erected on all exposed sides, except at the entrance to the hole, where a self-closing gate or an offset must be used.
Self Closing Gates

• **1910.29(b)(13)**
  - When guardrail systems are used around holes that serve as points of access (such as ladderways), the guardrail system opening:

• **1910.29(b)(13)(i)**
  - Has a self-closing gate that slides or swings away from the hole, and is equipped with a top rail and midrail or equivalent intermediate member that meets the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section; or
Self Closing Gates

Chain Closure

Self Closing Gate
Fixed Ladders

• Phase-in of fixed ladder safety systems for ladders that extend more than 24’.

• Existing ladders must have by Nov. 19th, 2018:
  • A personal fall arrest system
  • Ladder safety system
  • Cage or Well
    • 1910.28(b)(9)(i)(A), (B) and (C)
Fixed Ladder Safety

- Cages

- Ladder Climbing Safety Systems
COMPLIANCE DATES
## Key Compliance Dates

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<td>May 17, 2017</td>
<td>1910.30(a) &amp; (b) Training</td>
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<td>November 20, 2017</td>
<td>1910.27(b)(1) Cert. of Anchorages</td>
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<td>November 19, 2018</td>
<td>1910.28(b)(9)(i)(B) Fixed Ladder Safety – Cage, Well, PFAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19, 2018</td>
<td>1910.28(b)(9)(i)(B) Each fixed ladder installed on and after November 19, 2018, is equipped with a personal fall arrest system or a ladder safety system</td>
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<td>November 18, 2036</td>
<td>1910.28(b)(9)(i)(D) Deadline for all fixed ladders to have ladder safety systems</td>
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For more Information

www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces