

Exterior building contractors: Rooftop anchors

If work is to be carried out on the roof edge without a guardrail or on the face of a building over 3 metres (10 ft) above grade, then it is the responsibility of the building owner to **ensure** that suitable anchorage is available for the installation of suspension and tieback lines and a fall restraint or fall arrest system, as required.

Anchorage: A fixed support to which the anchorage connector is connected. An anchorage is generally a structural member—a beam, girder, column, etc.—or a fabricated anchor attached to a floor, roof, or wall.

When contractors are doing the work, the primary responsibility rests with the contractor to:

- Utilize adequate anchorage
- Provide a written fall protection plan if workers will be working at a location from which a fall of 7.5 metres (25 ft) or more may occur
- Have a qualified person inspect the anchors and connecting equipment before each workshift

The building owner is still responsible for ensuring that suitable anchorage is available on the building for use by the contractor before any work is carried out. For the building owner's responsibilities, see section 119 of the *Workers Compensation Act* (page 2).

Developing a rigging plan

Make a rigging plan—a description (drawings) of how the suspended equipment is to be tied back and anchored. Also indicate planned drop locations around the roof perimeter.

Developing a written fall protection plan

Before the contractor develops a written fall protection plan, complete a survey of the areas to be worked on. **Ask the owner for a list of known or potential hazards.**

In addition, consider the following when developing your written fall protection plan:

- Make a plan of the roof area showing the anchorage locations intended for use.
- Indicate the method of access and egress to a roof area. (This could be by stairs or a vertical ladder through a hatchway.)
- Check the integrity of railings, parapet walls, cornices, and any other part of the structure that may be used as anchorage.
- Check the integrity of any anchors and that they are certified by a professional engineer to be able to take a load of 22 kN (5,000 lb).
- Ensure that workers inspect all of the personal protective equipment (PPE) prior to use.
- Ensure that all the workers are trained and qualified in fall protection procedures.
- Develop a rescue plan in case of a breakdown of the equipment or a worker injury, illness, or any other circumstance that may require a rescue.
- Will the fire department be required to execute a rescue?

For the contractor's responsibilities, see sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (page 2).



The following requirements are meant to be used in conjunction with all other applicable sections of the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Workers Compensation Act

General duties of owner

- 119** Every owner of a workplace must
- (a) provide and maintain the owner's land and premises that are being used as a workplace in a manner that ensures the health and safety of persons at or near the workplace,
 - (b) give to the employer or prime contractor at the workplace the information known to the owner that is necessary to identify and eliminate or control hazards to the health or safety of persons at the workplace, and
 - (c) comply with this Part, the regulations and any applicable orders.

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Fall protection plan

- 11.3** (1) The employer must have a written fall protection plan for a workplace if
- (a) work is being done at a location where workers are not protected by permanent guardrails, and from which a fall of 7.5 m (25 ft) or more may occur,
 - (b) the employer uses a safety monitor and control zone or other work procedures as the means of fall protection, or
 - (c) the board so directs, because a fall may involve an unusual risk of injury.
- (2) The fall protection plan must be available at the workplace before work with a risk of falling begins.
- (3) The plan must specify
- (a) the fall hazards expected in each work area,
 - (b) the fall protection system or systems to be used in each area,
 - (c) the procedures to assemble, maintain, inspect, use and disassemble the fall protection system or systems, and
 - (d) the procedures for rescue of a worker who has fallen and is suspended by a personal fall protection system or safety net, but is unable to effect self rescue.

Instruction of workers

- 11.4** Before a worker is allowed into an area where a risk of falling exists, the employer must ensure the worker is instructed in the fall protection system for the area and the procedures to be followed.

