

G13.29 Lower travel limit devices

Proposed June 16, 2005

Section 13.29 of the *OHS Regulation* (with the proposed addition of a new subsection (2.1)) states:

- (1) Cranes, winches and other devices used for hoisting and lowering movable work platforms must
 - (a) be operated as slowly as practicable while supporting the work platform,
 - (b) be lowered under power, if the device is powered, and
 - (c) not be equipped with a free running boom or hoisting winch controlled only by brakes.
- (2) If a moveable work platform is suspended from a crane, winch or other device over a structure that cannot safely support its weight or if other hazards exist below the platform, lower limit travel devices compatible with the hoist system must be used to ensure the platform cannot be lowered beyond the safe lower limit of travel.**
- (2.1) If the lower limit travel devices required by subsection (2) are not practicable, the employer must ensure that work procedures acceptable to the Board are used that will minimize the risk of the platform going beyond the safe lower limit of travel.**
- (3) A trial lift for a work platform suspended from or attached to a crane or hoist must be performed at all work locations before the platform is occupied.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. _____, effective _____, 2006.]

This guideline is intended to provide information to Board prevention officers and workplaces on the application of section 13.29(2) and (2.1). In particular, it addresses the issue in subsection (2) of hazards below the platform, and in subsection (2.1) the circumstances in which lower limit travel devices may not be practicable.

The intent of section 13.29(2) is to ensure that lower limit travel devices are used to prevent a work platform, including a permanent or portable powered work platform, or a boatswain's chair, from being lowered beyond a safe level. These devices are needed if the work platform is suspended over a structure that cannot safely support its weight, or if other hazards exist below the platform.

Hazards below the platform

Some examples of the hazards that might exist below a work platform include water that is deep enough to present a hazard of drowning, energized and exposed high voltage equipment, a canopy entrance to a building, the entrance to the underground parking area of a building or circumstances where the platform is above vehicle traffic or moving machinery.

Proposed OHS Guideline: Part 13, Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms

Practicability of lower travel limit devices

Lower limit travel devices are generally practicable if the hoisting equipment being used is a powered swing stage (permanent or portable powered platform). The *CSA Standard Z271 Safety Code for Suspended Elevating Platforms*, in clauses 7.3.12.4.2 and 8.3.6.4.3, requires such equipment to have lower limit travel devices if there is a hazard in the event of descent beyond a predetermined point. Most permanent powered platforms will have automatic lower limit travel devices. Many portable powered platforms use a cable climbing hoist. For these types of hoists, the use of cable clips positioned at the appropriate spot on the hoist line(s) may be considered a lower limit travel device.

In circumstances where section 13.29(2) and (2.1) apply, the use of a lower limit travel device is the preferred means of worker safety. The use of work procedures will be acceptable only where lower limit travel devices do not exist or are not practicable.

Lower limit travel devices are generally not practicable for work platforms suspended from a crane load line or a winch load line. If a winch or drum hoist is being used, painting a warning mark on the hoist line at an appropriate spot may be part of the work procedures for controlling lower travel limits. The work procedure would need to include the use of a signaler to direct the crane or hoist operator where the operator does not have an adequate view of the platform to safely move the platform under the direction of a designated signaler on the platform.