

PART 13: LADDERS, SCAFFOLDS AND TEMPORARY WORK PLATFORMS

DIVISION 5 – MOVABLE WORK PLATFORMS

- Hoisting and lowering work platforms** **13.29**
- (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.

Explanatory Note

The intent of section 13.29 (2) is to ensure that lower limit travel devices are used to prevent a work platform from being lowered beyond a safe level. Specifically, the requirement for these devices is needed if the work platform is to be suspended over a structure that cannot safely support its weight, or if other hazards exist below the platform. Some examples of the hazards that might exist below the platform are when a work platform is being lowered over water, a canopy entrance to a building, or the entrance to the underground parking area of a building. Lower limit devices are generally practicable if the hoisting equipment being used is a permanent powered platform. Most permanent powered platforms and 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. Lower limit travel devices are generally not practicable for crane-supported or drum winch-supported work platforms. It is proposed that existing section 13.29 (2) be amended to include reference to "crane, winch or other device". This addition is intended to clarify the situations in which this section is applicable.

The requirement in section 13.29 (2) was part of the proposal to amend Part 13, which was taken to a March 2004 public hearing and came into effect on January 1, 2005. During the public hearing, a submitter noted that some types of hoists do not have devices to limit a work platform's travel beyond a safe level.

It is proposed that the requirement for lower limit travel devices be amended (proposed section 13.29 (2.1)) to address situations where it is not practicable to have these devices, while maintaining worker health and safety. The proposed amendment is intended to outline a hierarchy of safety measures when a moveable work platform is suspended over a structure that cannot safely support its weight or if other hazards exist below. The use of a lower limit travel device would be the primary means of worker safety. The use of work procedures would be secondary only where the devices do not exist or are not practicable. 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. It is anticipated that a practice guideline would outline the applicable work procedures that are acceptable to the Workers' Compensation Board.