

OVERVIEW

TITLE Work procedures in high risk situations

Part 13, Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms
Section 13.32, Work procedures in high risk situations

1. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED?

Section 13.32 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (“OHSR”) requires the employer (or prime contractor or owner if applicable) to obtain the prior permission of the Board before using a swing stage, boatswain’s chair or portable powered platform in any of the following high risk circumstances:

1. One work platform will be used above or below any portion of another platform,
2. A deck or planking will be used to span a gap between two independent work platforms,
3. The work platform will exceed 10 m (32 feet) in length, or
4. The suspension height will exceed 91 metres (300 feet).

Processing requests for prior permission under section 13.32 requires resources from both external stakeholders and WorkSafeBC. The following table shows the number of requests for prior permission processed in the past few years.

Year	Section 13.32(a)-(d)
2007	21
2008	21
Up to May 2009	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>51</i>

Prior permission is only granted once all the necessary information has been assembled by the applicant and received by WorkSafeBC. The handling of these requests is complex, and typically requires several exchanges between the applicant and WorkSafeBC before all the necessary information has been assembled by the applicant and received by WorkSafeBC. An OHS Guideline has been published to assist with requests for prior permission under section 13.32 through setting out the factors to be considered, including reference to the provisions in the applicable CSA standards. The requirements are

covered by CSA Standards and do require involvement of a professional engineer for engineering aspects.

The construction industry is one of the main industry sectors affected by the requirements of section 13.32. An association representing many of the affected construction sector employers has requested the section be amended to allow a professional engineer to design or certify the installation and use of this equipment in these high risk situations, and that the requirement for obtaining prior permission from the Board be deleted.

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE?

To eliminate the need for the employer (or the prime contractor or owner, as applicable) to get prior permission from the Board to use of a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform in the high risk situations described in section 13.32. The need for prior permission will be replaced with a requirement for a professional engineer to certify the equipment meets the requirements of the applicable CSA Standards prior to first use of the equipment. This will place responsibility for planning, design, installation and use of a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform in the high risk situations described in section 13.32 solely with the employer, prime contractor or owner, and the professional engineer engaged to be responsible for the engineering aspects of each such installation.

To eliminate the administrative burden on stakeholders and WorkSafeBC due to the current WorkSafeBC process used for processing request for prior permission under section 13.32.

3. SOURCE OF REQUEST

Council of Construction Associations

PART 13: LADDERS, SCAFFOLDS AND TEMPORARY WORK PLATFORMS

DIVISION 5 – MOVABLE WORK PLATFORMS

Work procedures in high risk situations

13.32 ~~A swing stage, boatswain's chair and portable powered platform must not be used without prior permission of the Board if~~

Before a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform is used in any of the following circumstances, a professional engineer must have certified in writing that the swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform, as the case may be, meets the requirements of CSA Standard CAN/CSA Z271-98 (R2003) Safety Code for Suspended Elevating Platforms and CSA Standard CAN/CSA Z91-02 (R2008) Health and Safety Code for Suspended Equipment Operations:

- (a) one work platform will be used above or below any portion of another work platform,
- (b) a deck or planking will be used to span a gap between two independent work platforms,
- (c) the work platform will exceed 10 m (32 ft) in length, or
- (d) the suspension height will exceed 91 m (300 ft).

Explanatory Note:

Section 13.32 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation ("OSHR") requires the employer, prime contractor or owner, as applicable, obtain prior permission of the Board before using a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform in any one of the four circumstances outlined in that section. The following table shows the number of requests for prior permission processed in the past few years.

Year	Section 13.32(a)-(d)
2007	21
2008	21
Up to May 2009	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>51</i>

Processing requests for prior permission under section 13.32 requires resources from both external stakeholders and WorkSafeBC. The handling of these requests is complex, and typically requires several exchanges between the applicant and WorkSafeBC before all the information necessary to make a decision on whether or not to grant permission has been assembled by the applicant and received by WorkSafeBC. WorkSafeBC has published *OHS Guideline G13.32 Prior permission – Platform use in high risk situations* to assist employers and engineers in the process of seeking prior permission under section 13.32. The requirements are covered by CSA Standards and do require involvement of a professional engineer for certain engineering aspects.

The construction industry is one of the main industry sectors affected by the provisions of section 13.32. An association representing many of the affected employers in this sector has requested the section be amended to allow a professional engineer to design or certify the installation and use of this type of equipment in these high risk situations, and that the requirement for obtaining prior permission from the Board be deleted.

It is proposed to amend section 13.32 to eliminate the requirement for obtaining prior permission of the Board and replace this with a requirement for the employer who wants to use this type of equipment in the specified circumstances to get a professional engineer to certify the equipment meets the

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR PART 13: LADDERS, SCAFFOLDS AND TEMPORARY WORK PLATFORMS
IN THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION**

requirements of the applicable CSA standards prior to use of the equipment. This will place the responsibility for planning, design, installation and use of swing stages, boatswain's chairs and portable powered platforms in the high risk situations described in section 13.32 clearly with the employer, prime contractor or owner, as applicable, and the professional engineer engaged to be responsible for engineering aspects required for the equipment and installation. The engineering aspects include designing or specifying the platform, hoists, suspension lines and all rigging hardware, the rigging plan and the roof plan detailing the support system for the suspension lines and the anchors for tie-back lines and lifelines. The employer would have prime responsibility for training of workers and the work plan.

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