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11.1 Definitions

In this Part

"anchor" means a component or subsystem of a fall protection system used to connect the other parts of a fall protection system to an anchorage, and includes an anchorage connector;

"anchorage" means a secure connection point for a fall protection system;

"fall arrest system" means a system that will stop a worker's fall before the worker hits the surface below;

"fall protection system" means

(a) a fall restraint system,

(b) a fall arrest system, or

(c) work procedures that are acceptable to the Board and minimize the risk of injury to a worker from a fall;

"fall restraint system" means a system to prevent a worker from falling from a work position, or from travelling to an unguarded edge from which the worker could fall;

"full body harness" means a body support device consisting of connected straps designed to distribute the force resulting from a fall over at least the thigh, shoulders and pelvis, with provision for attaching a lanyard, lifeline or other components;

"horizontal lifeline system" means a system composed of a synthetic or wire rope, installed horizontally between 2 anchors, to which a worker attaches a personal fall protection system;

"lanyard" means a flexible line of webbing, or synthetic or wire rope, that is used to secure a safety belt or full body harness to a lifeline or anchor;

"lifeline" means a synthetic or wire rope, rigged from one or more anchors, to which a worker's lanyard or other part of a personal fall protection system is attached;

"personal fall protection system" means a worker’s fall restraint system or fall arrest system composed of

(a) a safety belt or full body harness, and

(b) a lanyard, lifeline and any other connecting equipment individual to the worker

that is used to secure the worker to an anchor, an anchorage or a horizontal lifeline system;

"safety belt" means a body support device consisting of a strap with a means for securing it about the waist and attaching it to other components;

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 404/2012, effective April 1, 2013.]

11.2 Obligation to use fall protection

(1) Unless elsewhere provided for in this Regulation, an employer must ensure that a fall protection system is used when work is being done at a place

(a) from which a fall of 3 m (10 ft) or more may occur, or

(b) where a fall from a height of less than 3 m involves a risk of injury greater than the risk of injury from the impact on a flat surface.

(2) The employer must ensure that guardrails meeting the requirements of Part 4 (General Conditions) or other similar means of fall restraint are used when practicable.

(3) If subsection (2) is not practicable, the employer must ensure that another fall restraint system is used.

(4) If subsection (3) is not practicable, the employer must ensure that one of the following is used:

(a) a fall arrest system;

(b) a rope access system that meets the requirements of Part 34.

(5) If subsection (4) is not practicable, or will result in a hazard greater than if a fall arrest system or a rope access system was not used, the employer must ensure that work procedures are followed that are acceptable to the Board and minimize the risk of injury to a worker from a fall.

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

(7) A worker must use the fall protection system provided by the employer.

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 199/2014, effective February 1, 2015.]

11.3 Fall protection plan

(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, or

(b) section 11.2(5) applies.

(c) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

(2) The fall protection plan must be available at the workplace before work with a risk of falling begins.

(3) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

11.4 Selection of harness or belt

(1) A worker must wear a full body harness or other harness acceptable to the Board when using a personal fall protection system for fall arrest.

(2) A worker must wear a safety belt, a full body harness or other harness acceptable to the Board when using a personal fall protection system for fall restraint.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

11.5 Equipment standards

Equipment used for a fall protection system must

(a) consist of compatible and suitable components,

(b) be sufficient to support the fall restraint or arrest forces, and

(c) meet, and be used in accordance with, an applicable CSA or ANSI standard in effect when the equipment was manufactured, subject to any modification or upgrading considered necessary by the Board.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

11.6 Anchors

(1) In a temporary fall restraint system, an anchor for a personal fall protection system must have an ultimate load capacity in any direction in which a load may be applied of at least

(a) 3.5 kN (800 lbs), or

(b) four times the weight of the worker to be connected to the system.

(2) Each personal fall protection system that is connected to an anchor must be secured to an independent attachment point.

(3) In a temporary fall arrest system, an anchor for a personal fall protection system must have an ultimate load capacity in any direction required to resist a fall of at least

(a) 22 kN (5 000 lbs), or

(b) two times the maximum arrest force.

(4) A permanent anchor for a personal fall protection system must have an ultimate load capacity in any direction required to resist a fall of at least 22 kN (5 000 lbs).

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 19/2006, effective May 17, 2006.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 404/2012, effective April 1, 2013.]

11.7 Temporary horizontal lifelines

A temporary horizontal lifeline system may be used if the system is

(a) manufactured for commercial distribution and installed and used in accordance with the written instructions from the manufacturer or authorized agent, and the instructions are readily available in the workplace,

(b) installed and used in accordance with written instructions certified by a professional engineer, and the instructions are readily available in the workplace, or

(c) designed, installed and used in a manner acceptable to the Board.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 19/2006, effective May 17, 2006.]

11.8 Certification by engineer

The following types of equipment and systems, and their installation, must be certified by a professional engineer:

(a) permanent anchors,

(b) anchors with multiple attachment points,

(c) permanent horizontal lifeline systems, and

(d) support structures for safety nets.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

11.9 Inspection and maintenance

Equipment used in a fall protection system must be

(a) inspected by a qualified person before use on each workshift,

(b) kept free from substances and conditions that could contribute to its deterioration, and

(c) maintained in good working order.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]

11.10 Removal from service

(0.1) If, at any time, a permanent anchor does not meet the requirements of section 11.5(c), the anchor must not be used until it has been inspected and recertified, by a professional engineer, as meeting the requirements of section 11.5(c).

(1) After a fall protection system has arrested the fall of a worker, it must

(a) be removed from service, and

(b) not be returned to service until it has been inspected and recertified as safe for use by the manufacturer or its authorized agent, or by a professional engineer.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), subsection (1)(b) does not apply to a personal fall protection system designed and intended for reuse by a performer in the entertainment industry for conducting a planned fall sequence.

(3) The following conditions must be met before a personal fall protection system described in subsection (2) will be exempt from subsection (1) (b):

(a) the system must be designed and used in accordance with a standard acceptable to the Board;

(b) each use of the system must be carried out in accordance with the plan for the conduct of the fall;

(c) the peak arrest forces generated in the system during each use must be at or below both the planned limits and the maximum forces allowed for the system;

(d) after each use of the system no part of the system, including the anchorage, may be reused until a qualified person has inspected it and determined it is in serviceable condition and safe for reuse.

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 420/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 320/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]
[Amended by B.C. Reg. 404/2012, effective April 1, 2013.]