

POLICY:		FALL PROTECTION		NUMBER: WP-44
PREPARED BY: Facilities Management (FM)	AUTHORIZED BY:  Andrew Konowalchuk	CLASSIFICATION: Work Procedure	EFFECTIVE: April 14, 2025	
			SUPERSEDES: July 1, 2015	

The Industrial and Construction Regulations made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act specify fall protection requirements where there is a risk of falling more than 3 metres (10 feet) or into hazardous substances, operating machinery or water. The use of alternative work procedures, temporary or permanent barriers, safety nets or travel restraint systems may be used to eliminate the requirement for fall arrest. Where possible, it is preferable to implement a system whereby fall arrest equipment is not required to ensure the safety of the worker.

Employees who have completed Working at Heights training, as specified by Ontario Reg. 297/13, and hold a valid certification are exempt from the training requirements outlined by this work procedure.

DEFINITIONS:

Risk of Falling:

Where a worker must encroach within 2 metres (6 feet 6 inches) of an unprotected edge, as defined below, the risk of falling is hereby recognized.

Unprotected Edges:

A roof or other work location where the risk of falling (as defined above) more than 3 metres (10 feet) or into hazardous substances, operating machinery or water exists and which is not protected by means of guardrail, parapet or similar structure of a height of 900 mm (3 feet) will be considered an unprotected edge. This may include but is not limited to the perimeter of a roof, opening in a floor, elevated work platform (catwalk), etc.

Barriers:

Guardrails, parapets, and warning flags can be used as barriers. These may be temporarily or permanently affixed to the work area. These barriers must be at least 900 mm (3 feet) in height. This definition is recognized by the CSAO in their 1995 publication titled "Fall Protection Guidelines: Flat Roofing".

Fall Arrest System:

An assembly of components joined together so that when the assembly is connected to a fixed support, it is capable of arresting a worker's fall, consists of a full-body harness with back-mounted "D" ring, a shock absorbing lanyard, a lifeline, connecting hardware and anchorage point(s).

Travel Restraint System:

An assembly of components capable of restricting worker's movement on a work surface and preventing the worker from reaching a location from which he or she could fall, equipment designed to keep a person away from the location of the fall hazard, a mechanism which restricts the movement of a worker on a work surface, consists of a full-body harness, a lifeline or retractable lanyard, and an anchorage point.

Anchor Point:

A secure point of attachment for lifelines, lanyards, or deceleration devices, which is independent of the means of supporting or suspending the employee.

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PROCEDURES:

1. Where possible, attempts will be made to remove the risk of falling by use of barriers, guardrails, safety nets or altering the work procedure so as to eliminate the need to encroach an unprotected edge as defined above.
2. Where risks cannot be eliminated, travel restraint options will be examined and used appropriately. Western Facilities Management staff must ensure any new construction project uses a travel restraint system with a permanent anchor point capable of bearing at least 8.75 kilonewtons (2,000 pounds-force) per worker in any direction.
3. Where travel restraint options are not appropriate or feasible, fall arrest systems will be employed as defined above. In the case of a personal fall arrest system, Western Facilities Management staff shall ensure that anchor points to which the personal fall arrest system is attached have an ultimate load capacity of at least 22.2 kilonewtons (5,000 pounds-force) per worker attached in any direction in which the load may be applied.

EQUIPMENT:

All travel restraint and fall arrest equipment must be CSA approved, inspected by the worker prior to use for signs of damage, and must be found to be in good working order.

The following equipment may be signed out from the Tool Crib:

- self-retracting system
- shock absorbing lanyard
- fixed length lanyard
- full body harness
- web wraps -- these wrap around structures, I-beams, for use on anchor point
- safety belts
- cable grabs

TRAINING:

All FM employees must attend training on regulatory requirements, the proper use of full body harnesses, lanyards, and anchor points. Refresher courses will be offered every three (3) years.