



COMPLIANCE TIP

Fall Protection

Falls from elevations are a major safety hazard in all industries. Falls represented about 10% of all traumatic occupational deaths. OSHA has identified that falls cause 33% of construction fatalities. In September of 1994, OSHA implemented a policy of focused inspections for construction. Under the new policy "If other conditions are assessed as satisfactory, the officer may end the inspection after the four most hazardous areas are evaluated." - Joseph Dear, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The four major hazard areas are:

- 1) Fall hazards,
- 2) Struck by hoisting equipment, vehicles, falling objects, etc.,
- 3) Caught in/between excavations, equipment, etc.
- 4) Electrical.

General industry will not escape fall citations. Falls also account for a large portion of occupational deaths in this industry. Although the focused inspection did not become effective in 1994 for General Industry, thousands of citations have been issued for failure to provide fall protection to employees.

ACTIONS

- Develop and implement a Fall Protection Program.
- Identify and train competent persons in your organizations. Competent Person's will have the necessary training and authority to implement the Fall Protection Program and Fall Protection Plans.
- Inspect and survey the workplace. Identify all potential fall hazards.
- Control fall hazards. Consult the regulations to determine the type of fall protection required. If a fall protection plan is selected, insure that conditions meet the OSHA requirements to implement a plan.
- Develop inspection checklists for the fall protection systems to be used in the workplace.
- Provide training to management, supervisors and the workers. Train employees on the use of fall protection equipment and safety procedures. Document and record the training.

Materials to assist you in addressing these requirements can be found in the eSafetyLine Software. The application provides compliance guides, training guides, checklists, model documents and training materials. The software also provides a data base and report generator to assist you in meeting the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the standard.