

Work Safe Bulletin

Guardrails & Fall Protection

The Cement Finishing Labour Relations Association is an Ontario not-for-profit ICI employer organization whose purpose includes the promotion of safe work planning and practices.

The purpose of this document is to provide specific hazard information and promote discussion of safe work practices.

This bulletin does not contain a full analysis of the law, nor does it constitute a legal opinion. The CFLRA is not liable for any damages resulting from the use of this information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 289-837-1627 or by e-mail at safety@cflra.ca

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Background:

Falls are the number one killer in construction. Be sure to know where the unprotected edges of a slab are and how to protect yourself!

Hazard Concern:

Unguarded slab edges and openings may allow a worker to fall resulting in serious injury or death.

Recommended Procedure:

Each project has unique characteristics that require careful consideration. It is strongly recommended that this issue be discussed at the preconstruction meeting with your safety representative. To reduce the possibility of an incident, it is recommended that the following be considered:

Regulation 26 of the OH&SA states that mandatory fall protection is required when a worker is exposed to any of the following hazards:

1. Falling more than 3 metres.
2. Falling more than 1.2 metres if the work area is used as a path for a wheelbarrow or similar equipment.
3. Falling into operating machinery.
4. Falling into water or another liquid.
5. Falling into or onto a hazardous substance or object.
6. Falling through an opening on a work surface.

Regulation 26.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that a worker shall be adequately protected by a guardrail system that meets the requirements of subsection 26.3 (2) to (8).

Regulation 26.2 states that if it is not reasonably possible to install a guardrail system, a worker shall be adequately protected by at least one of the following methods of fall protection (in descending order of effectiveness):

1. A travel restraint system.
2. A fall restricting system.
3. A fall arrest system.
4. A safety net.

Note: Before the use of any fall arrest system or safety net by a worker at a project, the workers employer shall develop written procedures for rescuing the worker after his or her fall has been arrested.

Further references:

- [Ontario Regulation 213 Construction Projects.](#)
- [Infrastructure Health & Safety Association](#)

