



CONVEYOR EQUIPMENT
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Ladder Fall Protection Devices – OSHA 1910

Screw Conveyor and Bucket Elevator Section

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It is important to look at the wording of the regulations in order to understand how OSHA has defined fall protection devices in the recent years.

2016 requirements:

1910.27(d) (1)

“Cages or wells shall be provided on ladders on more than 20’ to a maximum unbroken length of 30’, landing platforms will be provided every 30’ for resting”

2018 requirement changes:

1910.28(b) (9)

“Fixed ladders may extend 24’ without cages or wells but must include personal fall arrest systems.”

“Ladders with a personal fall arrest system may extend 150’ without a landing platform and cage”

“Ladders installed after November 19, 2018, that are over 24’ are required to have a personal fall arrest system”

“All ladders will require self-closing gates at access points”

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November 19th, 2018-current requirements:

“Existing fixed ladders over 24’ installed before November 19th, 2018, will be equipped with a personal fall arrest system, ladder safety system”

The final rule over the next 15 years, by 2036 is to equip fixed ladders in the field (that extend more than 24’) with ladder safety or personal fall arrest system and prohibits the use of cages and wells as a means of fall protection after the phase in deadline. The final rule also grandfathers in cages and wells on existing ladders but requires by 2036 that employers equip them with fall protection systems.

The wording implies that any new fixed ladders installed 24’ off the ground and higher must have a fall protection system in place. To be clear if there is a section of ladder that is less than 24’ span but is more than 24’ of the ground level, is also required to have fall protection system in place. The maximum allowable ladder section is 150’ between rest platforms.

OSHA Sources:

www.OSHA.gov/walking-working-surfaces

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