

## Comparison chart for fall protection requirements

Industry or Activity	WAC Rule number	Verbiage	Height requirement (in feet)
<b>General Industry</b>			
Floor openings, floor holes and open-sided floors	296-800-26010(1)	<p>Guard open-sided floors and platforms. Guard open-sided floors and platforms 4 feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level by a railing. The entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder doesn't need a railing.</p> <p>Guard open-sided floors, walkways and platforms above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, pickling or galvanizing tanks, degreasing units, and other similar hazards, regardless of height with a railing and toeboard.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Always</p>
Elevating work platforms	296-869-60035	All persons on the platform are wearing fall protection devices and other safety gear if required	Always
Elevating work platforms	296-869-20040	<p>Make sure all persons on the platform of boom-supported elevating work platforms wear a full body harness and lanyard fixed to manufacturer provided and approved attachment points.</p> <p>Note: Guardrails are the primary means of fall protection for manually propelled elevating work platforms.</p>	Always
Open-sided floor, platforms or surface	296-800-26010(1)	Guard open-sided floors and platforms four feet or more above adjacent floor or round level by a railing. The entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder does not need a railing.	4
Scaffolds	296-874-20052	<p>Protect each employee on a scaffold more than 10ft. (3.1m) above a lower level, from falling to the lower level, by providing either; a personal fall arrest system or guardrails.</p> <p>Make sure employees erecting the scaffold install the guardrail system, if required, before the scaffold is used by other employees.</p>	10
Window washing	296-878-15025	<p>Make sure the fall arrest system meets the requirements of WAC 296-24-88050 mandatory Appendix C, Part I, Personal Fall Arrest Systems.</p> <p>( 1 ) Use and inspect fall arrest equipment in accordance with the requirements of WAC 296-24-88050, mandatory Appendix C, Part I, Personal Fall Arrest Systems.</p> <p>Make sure all workers suspended from a boatswain's chair or rope descent system use an independent fall arrest system where the fall arrest anchorage is separate from the suspension system anchorage.</p> <p>Make sure workers operating powered platforms wear and use a fall arrest system.</p>	4

		<p>Make sure workers assemble and wear their personal fall arrest equipment before they approach the point of suspension.</p> <p>Make sure workers are connected at all times to the fall arrest system while they are suspended.</p> <p>( 2 ) Make sure the boatswain's chair or rope descent system is connected at all times to the suspension line.</p>	
Order pickers	296-863-20025	<p>Make sure order pickers have either: Standard guardrails on all open sides or A safety harness and lanyard that are connected to a tie off point that has been approved by the PIT manufacturer.</p> <p>Make sure personal fall arrest equipment meets the requirements of WAC 296-24-88050, Appendix C, Personal Fall Arrest Systems.</p>	10
<b>Construction</b>			
Construction fall arrest, fall restraint systems	296-155-24510	When employees are exposed to a hazard of falling from a location 10 feet or more in height, the employer shall ensure that fall restraint, fall arrest systems or positioning device systems are provided, installed, and implemented according to the following requirements.	10
Concrete and masonry operations	296-155-680(10)(c)	Each employee on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8m) or more to lower levels by personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, or positioning device systems meeting the criteria of chapter 295-155 WAC, Part C-1.	6
Concrete and masonry operations	296-155-680(10)(b)	No employee shall be permitted to place or tie reinforcing steel more than six feet (1.8m) above any adjacent working surface unless the employee is protected by personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, or positioning device systems meeting the criteria of Chapter 296-155 WAC, Part C-1.	6
Construction, Open sided floors, walkways, platforms or runways	296-155-505(6)(e)	Regardless of height, open sided floors, walkways, platforms, or runways above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, pickling or galvanizing tanks, degreasing units, and similar hazards, shall be guarded with a standard railing and toe board.	Always
Trenching/ Excavation	296-155-655(12)(a)	Guardrails which comply with Chapter 296-155, Part K shall be provided where walkways are 4 feet or more above lower levels	4
Construction, Open-sided floor, platforms or surface	296-155-505(6)(a)	Every open sided floor, platform or surface four feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level shall be guarded by a standard railing, or the equivalent, as specified in subsection (7)(a) of this section, on all open sides, except where there is entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder. The railing shall be provided with a standard toe board wherever, beneath the open sides, persons can pass, or there is moving machinery, or there is equipment with which falling materials could create a hazard.	4
<b>Agriculture</b>			

Agriculture (Dangerous equipment, pickling or galvanizing tanks, degreasing units, and other similar hazards)	296-307-25015(3)	Regardless of height, all open sided floors, walkways, platforms, or runways above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, pickling or galvanizing tanks, degreasing units, or similar hazardous equipment, must be guarded with a standard railing and toeboard.	Always
Agriculture	296-307-25015(1)	Every open sided floor, platform or surface four feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level shall be guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent) according to WAC 296-307-25027 on all open sides, except where there is entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder.	4
<b>Electrical Workers</b>			
Electrical workers	296-45-25510(12)	<p>Fall arrest equipment, work positioning equipment, or travel restricting equipment shall be used by employees working at elevated locations more than 4 feet (1.2 m) above the ground on poles, towers, or similar structures if other fall protection has not been provided. Fall protection equipment is not required to be used by a qualified employee climbing or changing location on poles, towers, or similar structures, unless conditions, such as, but not limited to, ice, high winds, the design of the structure (for example, no provision for holding on with hands), or the presence of contaminants on the structure, could cause the employee to lose his or her grip or footing.</p> <p>Note1: This subsection applies to structures that support overhead electric power generation, transmission, and distribution lines and equipment. It does not apply to portions of buildings, such as loading docks, to electric equipment, such as transformers and capacitors, nor to aerial lifts. Requirements for fall protection associated with walking and working surfaces are contained in WAC 296-155-245; requirements for fall protection associated with aerial lifts are contained in chapter 296-155 WAC, Part J-1.</p> <p>Note2: Employees undergoing training are not considered “qualified employees” for the purposes of this provision. Unqualified employees (including trainees) are required to use fall protection any time they are more than 4 feet (1.2 m) above the ground.</p>	4
Electrical workers, line clearance, tree trimming	296-45-45530	Each employee shall be tied with a climbing rope and safety saddle when the employee is working above the ground in a tree, unless he or she is ascending into the tree.	Always
<b>Longshore, Stevadore, and Waterfront Related Operations</b>			
Longshore/stevedoring	296-56-60123(2)	( a ) Guardrails shall be provided at locations where employees are exposed to falls of more than four feet from floor or wall openings or waterside edges, including bridges or gang-way like structures leading to pilings, vessel mooring or berthing installations.	4

		( c ) Where guardrails are impractical due to machinery requirements or work processes, an alternate means of fall protection, such as nets, shall be used.	
Longshore, stevedore and waterfront operations	296-56-60119	Employees doing maintenance work on cranes, spouts or similar types of equipment, eight feet or more above the ground or surface and not in an area that is protected by standard safeguards such as walkways with standard railings, or ladders with protective cages, shall wear a safety belt and lanyard which can be attached to the structure.	8
Longshore, stevedore and waterfront operations	296-56-60091(10)	Bin top openings that present a hazard to employees shall be covered to prevent employees from falling into bins.	At all times
Longshore, stevedore and waterfront operations	296-56-60122(1)(f)	When the lower end of a gangway overhangs the water between the ship and the dock in such a manner that there is danger of employees falling between the ship and the dock, a net or other suitable protection shall be rigged at the foot of the gangway in such a manner as to prevent employees from falling from the end of the gangway into the water or into the surface.	At all times
Longshore, stevedore and waterfront operations	296-56-60123(2)	( a ) Guardrails shall be provided at locations where employees are exposed to falls of more than four feet from floor or wall openings or waterside edges, including bridges or gangway-like structures leading to pilings, vessel mooring or berthing installations.  ( b ) Guardrails are not required:  At loading platforms and docks;  At waterside edges used for cargo or mooring line handling;  On the working sides of work platforms, skids, or similar workplaces which abut the work area; or  On railroad rolling stock, highway vehicles, intermodal containers, or similar equipment.  (c) Where guardrails are impractical due to machinery requirements or work processes, an alternate means of fall protection, such as nets, shall be used.	4
Longshore, stevedore and waterfront operations	296-56-60209(5)	Fixed ladders more than twenty feet (6.1 m) in height shall be provided with a cage, well, or ladder safety device.	20
<b>Shipbuilding, Ship Repairing, and Shipbreaking</b>			
Shipbuilding and ship repair	296-304-05005(3)	When employees are exposed to unguarded edges of decks, platforms, flats, and similar flat surfaces, more than 5 feet above a solid surface, the edges shall be guarded by adequate guardrails meeting the requirements of WAC 296-304-05001(1)(a) and (b), unless the nature of the work in progress or the physical conditions prohibit the use or installation of such guardrails.	5
Shipbuilding and ship repair (working surfaces)	296-304-05013(2)	The employer must provide and ensure the use of fall protection when employees work aloft or elsewhere at elevations more than 5 feet above a solid surface.	5

Shipbuilding and ship repair (fall protection)	296-304-09019	The employer must provide and ensure the use of fall protection when employees work aloft or elsewhere at elevations more than 5 feet above a solid surface.	5
<b>Firefighting</b>			
Fire fighter training	296-305-05501(4)	When fire fighters are engaged in training above the ten-foot level where use of life lines or similar activities are to be undertaken, a safety net shall be erected or other approved secondary means of fall protections such as recommended in Chapter 296-155 WAC, Part C-1, Fall restraint and fall arrest, shall be used in lieu of nets.	10
<b>Ski Area Facilities</b>			
Ski area facilities	296-59-050(5)	<p>Safety belts, lifelines, and lanyards which meet the requirements of ANSI A10.14 shall be provided and used whenever employees are working in locations which expose them to a fall of more than ten feet. The particular work location and application shall dictate which type of belt or harness and length of lanyard is used.</p> <p>Employees will not be required to wear a safety belt and lanyard while riding on a standard lift chair while seated in the normal riding position.</p> <p>Safety nets meeting the requirements of ANSI A10.11 shall be used when other acceptable forms of fall protection are not useable. When used, safety nets shall extend a minimum of eight feet beyond the edge offering exposure, shall be hung with sufficient clearance to prevent user's contact with surfaces or objects below, and shall not be more than twenty-five feet below the fall exposure edge.</p>	10
<b>Grain Handling Facilities</b>			
Grain handling facilities	296-99-040(2)	<p>The employer must ensure that during the entry and occupation of a storage structure the employee uses: A body harness with a lifeline; or A boatswain's chair that meets the requirements of Part J-2 of chapter 296-24 WAC whenever:</p> <p>(a) The employee is exposed to a fall hazard such as when entering from the top or above the level of the stored grain;</p>	Whenever there is a fall hazard