

General Industry Safety Orders General Physical Conditions and Structures Orders

3210. Guardrails at Elevated Locations.

(a) Buildings. Guardrails shall be provided on all open sides of unenclosed elevated work locations, such as: roof openings, open and glazed sides of landings, balconies or porches, platforms, runways, ramps, or working levels more than 30 inches above the floor, ground, or other working areas of a building as defined in Section 3207 of the General Industry Safety Orders. *

(b) Other Elevated Locations. The unprotected sides of elevated work locations that are not buildings or building structures where an employee is exposed to a fall of 4 feet or more shall be provided with guardrails. *

*Where overhead clearance prohibits installation of a 42-inch guardrail, a lower rail or rails shall be installed. The railing shall be provided with a toeboard where the platform, runway, or ramp is 6 feet or more above places where employees normally work or pass and the lack of a toeboard could create a hazard from falling tools, material, or equipment.

(d) Openings in guardrails for ladder-way access shall be protected as required by Section 3212(a)(2) of the General Industry Safety Orders

Selected Exceptions:

3. Portions of loading or storage platforms which are used primarily for loading or unloading railroad cars or trucks, or at waterside edges used for cargo handling.

8. Platforms, runways, ramps, or other working levels less than 4 feet above floor, ground, or other working level constructed prior to January 1, 1967.

11. Elevated locations used infrequently by employees if the employees using them are protected by a fall restraint/fall arrest system used in accordance with the requirements in Article 24 of the Construction Safety Orders.

Cal OSHA standards can be reviewed at
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm>