

ELEVATOR/ESCALATOR TRADE SAFETY ADVISORY

FALL PROTECTION FOR ELEVATOR CAR TOPS (EXISTING INSTALLATIONS)

The elevator industry has determined that car-top guardrail systems are the safest means of preventing workers from falling from the top of the car. For all new installations, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) requires car tops to be equipped with guardrails. It does not, however, require existing cars to be retrofitted with guardrails.

The Regulations for Industrial Establishments (Regulation 851) under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires all workers who are exposed to a hazard of falling more than three metres to be protected from a fall.

FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

In the absence of car-top guardrails, workers must have an alternative means of fall protection. Fall protection systems, however, can present their own hazards. For example, they can tangle, or they can get caught in moving parts or on protrusions.

Here's what workers and employers must do:

Workers

- Well in advance of working on an elevator, ask your employer for specific information about the type of elevator and whether it has guardrails. This way you can prepare for the job and ensure that you have the proper fall protection, such as
 - travel restraint system—prevents you from reaching a place where you can fall
 - fall restricting system—limits a fall to 0.6 metres (2 feet) or less
 - fall arrest system—stops a fall before you hit the ground.
- When on site, perform a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for all risks including falls. A job hazard analysis involves identifying:
 1. the basic steps of the job
 2. the hazards associated with the job
 3. the safeguards which will protect workers.
- Do not limit your safety review to fall hazards alone. For example, the fall protection system itself can present hazards such as tangling or catching on protrusions.

Work can only proceed when the hazards of the work have been identified, and the associated safeguards have been put in place.

Employers

- Establish safe work procedures for fall protection. Workers must be able to use them for site-specific applications. The procedures should include but not be limited to:
 - identifiable anchorage points
 - easy-to-use clearance distance formula
 - places where you can get tangled up—examples from different types of cars
 - training on use and proper fit
 - rescue procedures.

- Ensure that your workers are given the proper fall protection equipment for the assigned tasks and ensure that they have been trained on how to use it properly.

Building Owners: Be aware that you have a responsibility to ensure trade workers are not placed at risk when working on your premises

Technical Standards and Safety Authority

1-877-682-8772

www.tssa.org



Construction Safety Association of Ontario

1-800-781-2726

www.csao.org



Elevator/Escalator Trade Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee