



Division of Occupational Safety and Health  
California Department of Industrial Relations

## Roofing Safety: General Requirements

Construction safety Orders 1724, 1730, and 1731 were written to prevent accidents involving falls from roofs during roofing operations. Such falls are the cause of many serious injuries in the roofing industry.

This topic covers Section 1724, General Requirements. Sections 1730, Roofing Hazards and 1731, Roofing Hazards - New Production Type Residential Construction are covered under another Tailgate/Toolbox Topic.

### Suggestions

Start by reminding all roofers that they must be protected from falls on roofs over 20 feet high by fall arrest systems, roof jacks, guardrails, catch platforms, or other means.

Review the summary of Section 1724 with the employees. Stop from time to time for their questions.

After you complete the summary, have the employees take a quick look around the worksite to see whether the requirements of the safety order are actually being met. When they have completed their inspection, create a discussion by using the following question as a guide.

### Discussion questions

During your inspection, what safety problems did you discover?

- ◆ Did you find hazards not covered by the safety order?
- ◆ How can these hazards be eliminated?
- ◆ What conditions cause the most falls in roofing?
  - ◆ Carelessness by workers?
  - ◆ Unsafe working conditions?
  - ◆ Hazardous weather conditions?

### Summary of Safety Order 1724

#### Crawling Boards, Chicken Ladders:

- Make crawling boards at least 10 inches wide and 1 inch thick.
- Nail on cleats (at least 1 inch x 1 ½ inch material) spaced no more than 24 inches, nails driven through and bent over underneath.
- Whenever possible, extend crawling boards from the ridgepole to the eaves.
- Install firmly fastened handholds made of ¾ inch Manila rope for each crawling board.

#### Catch Platforms:

- Extend them at least 2 feet beyond the projection of the eaves.
- Provide them with 42-inch railings and 4-inch toeboards.
- Make sure they are fully planked.

#### High-lift Material trucks:

- Use standard railings and toeboards on the open sides of the platform, when it is used as a work surface and 7-1/2 feet above the level underneath.

#### Ramps and runways:

- Make them at least 40 inches wide when used only for loading or unloading roofing materials at heights up to 20 feet.
- At heights above 20 feet, equip them with standard guardrails.
- Secure them against accidental movement.
- Install cleats or other adequate traction when the slope is 2 feet or more for each 10 feet.
- Cleats must be at least 8 inches long and not more than 16 inches apart.

#### Resources:

Cal/OSHA Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry. Copies can be obtained from the Cal/OSHA publications website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp>, or from a Cal/OSHA District Office.

Health & Safety Guide for the Commercial Roofing Industry, No. 78194, from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 1-800-356-4674

Cal/OSHA Construction Safety Orders can be reviewed at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sub4.html>

Note: The information provided is not meant to be either a substitute for or legal interpretation of the occupational safety and health regulations. Readers are cautioned to refer directly to Title 8 of the *California Code of Regulations* for detailed information regarding the regulation's scope, specifications, and exceptions and for other requirements that may be applicable to their operations.