

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION
TO
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,
TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

Amend Section 3207 to read:

§3207. Definitions.

(a) The following terms are defined for general use in these regulations; specialized definitions appear in individual articles. (See Definitions in the Index)

Access. A means of reaching a work space of a work area.

Accessible. Within reach from a work space or work area.

Authorized (in reference to an employee's assignment). Selected by the employer for that purpose.

Certified Safety Professional or CSP. A safety professional who has met education and experience standards, has demonstrated by examination the knowledge that applies to professional safety practice, continues to meet recertification requirements established by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), and is authorized by BCSP to use the Certified Safety Professional designation.

Competent Person. One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

Court. An open, uncovered and unoccupied space, unobstructed to the sky, bounded on three or more sides by exterior building walls.

Yard Opening. An opening in a yard or pavement, 12 inches or more in the least horizontal dimension.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

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Amend Section 3212 to read:

§3212. Floor Openings, Floor Holes and Roofs.

(b) Floor and roof opening covers shall be designed by a qualified person and be capable of safely supporting the greater of 400 pounds or twice the weight of the employees, equipment and materials that may be imposed on any one square foot area of the cover at any time. Covers shall be secured in place to prevent accidental removal or displacement, and shall bear a pressure sensitized, painted, or stenciled sign with legible letters not less than one inch high, stating: "Opening--Do Not Remove." Markings of chalk or keel shall not be used.

(e) Any employee approaching within 6 feet of any skylight shall be protected from falling through the skylight or skylight opening by any one of the following methods:

(1) Skylight screens installed above the skylight. The design, construction, and installation of skylight screens shall meet the strength requirements equivalent to that of covers specified in subsection (b) above. They shall also be of such design, construction and mounting that under design loads or impacts, they will not deflect downward sufficiently to break the glass below them. The construction shall be of grillwork, with openings not more than 4 inches by 4 inches or of slatwork with openings not more than 2 inches wide with length unrestricted, or of other material of equal strength and similar configuration. ~~or~~

(2) Skylight screens installed below the skylight. Existing screens (i.e. burglar bars) shall meet the following requirements if they will be relied upon for fall protection:

(A) Screens installed at the same level as the walking/working surface shall meet the strength requirements of subsection (b).

(B) Screens installed within 2 feet of the walking/working surface shall meet the strength requirements of subsection (b) with increased strength based on the fall distance below the walking/working surface as determined by a qualified person. In no case shall the strength of the screen below the skylight be less than the strength requirements of subsection (b). A screen more than 2 feet below the walking/working surface shall not serve as fall protection.

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(C) A screen shall not be used for fall protection in accordance with subsection (e)(2)(A) or (e)(2)(B) if the broken skylight glazing will pose an impalement hazard to a worker who has fallen through the skylight and is lying on top of the screen. Skylights containing tempered, laminated, or plastic glazing, or similar materials shall not be considered to impose an impalement hazard.

(D) The screen construction shall be of grillwork, with openings less than 12 inches by 12.~~,-or~~

(23) Guardrails meeting the requirements of Section 3209.~~,-or~~

(34) The use of a personal fall protection system meeting the requirements of Section 1670 of the Construction Safety Orders.~~,-or~~

(45) Covers, including the skylight itself, meeting the requirements of subsection (b) installed over the skylights, or skylight openings. Where the skylight itself serves as a cover, the skylight shall be required to meet only the strength requirements of subsection (b). Further, for skylights serving as covers, the employer shall obtain documentation from the manufacturer that the skylight will meet the strength requirements of subsection (b) for the dates that work will be performed in the vicinity of the skylight. Such documentation shall be obtained prior to the start of work and shall be made available upon request.~~,-or~~

(6) Skylight nets.

(A) Materials. Materials used for skylight nets shall be of natural or synthetic fiber of sufficient size, strength, and number to absorb a 400 pound load dropped from 42 inches above the surface of the net. The net hardware shall be drop-forged, pressed, or formed steel, or material of equal or better quality. The maximum size of mesh shall not exceed 36 square inches or be longer than 6 inches on any side, measured center-to-center of mesh ropes or webbing. No mesh member shall exceed 6 inches in length measured center-to-center of mesh crossings. All mesh crossings shall be anchored to eliminate frictional wear and prevent enlargement of mesh openings. Nets shall not be larger than 12 feet by 12 feet.

(B) Inspection.

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1. Skylight nets shall be inspected weekly by a competent person utilizing the inspection procedures supplied by the manufacturer.

2. Visual inspections shall be performed daily by an authorized person trained on the manufacturer's inspection procedures before the net is relied upon for fall protection.

(C) Training. Employees shall be trained to recognize the hazards of falling into nets, and on the procedures to be followed in order to limit the potential injury from such falls. The training program shall include, at a minimum:

1. The tested limits of the net
2. Avoiding falls
3. Location of weekly inspection records and the person responsible
4. Procedures for retrieving a worker who has fallen into the net
5. Manufacturer's instructions on the use and limitations of the skylight net
6. Manufacturer's inspection requirements
7. Factors affecting net life, including, but not limited to, sunlight, abrasion, dirt/sand, rust, and airborne contaminants

(D) Care, Maintenance, and Storage. The care, maintenance, and storage of nets shall be in accordance with the net manufacturer's recommendations. Nets shall be protected from sparks, hot slag, or other materials which could compromise the strength of the net.

(E) Nets shall be removed from service under any of the following conditions:

1. The frame becomes warped, bent or distorted.
2. The netting becomes torn, unraveled, cut, or has excessive slippage of the mesh crossings.
3. The net has been modified from the original manufacturer's design or specification.
4. The recommended service life of the net as provided by the manufacturer has expired. Nets without a manufacturer supplied expiration date shall not be used for fall protection in accordance with this section.

EXCEPTION to subsection (e)(6)(E)4. If the employer effectively records and documents the date that the net was first placed in service, the service life of the net shall begin on the date placed into service instead of the date of manufacture.

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5. Other removal criteria specified by the manufacturer.

(F) Nets shall not be left on the skylight for longer than the duration of the job or one year whichever is less.

(G) Nets shall be used with sufficient clearance to prevent user's contact with the surfaces or structures below the skylight.~~or~~

~~(57)~~ A fall protection plan as prescribed in Section 1671.1 of the Construction Safety Orders when it can be demonstrated that the use of fall protection methods as contained in subsections ~~(e)(1-4)~~ (1-6) of this Section is impractical or creates a greater hazard.

EXCEPTION to subsection (e): When the work is of short duration and limited exposure such as measuring, roof inspection, electrical/mechanical equipment inspection, etc., and the time involved in rigging and installing the safety devices required in subsections (e)(1) through ~~(e)(4)~~(e)(6) equal or exceed the performance of the designated tasks of measuring, roof inspection, electrical/mechanical equipment inspection, etc., these provisions may be temporarily suspended provided that adequate risk control is recognized and maintained.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.