

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 274-5721
FAX (916) 274-5743
Website address: www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb



Date: July 14, 2014

Dear: Advisory Committee Member

Subject: Proposed Amendments for Title 8, California Code of Regulations, General Industry Safety Orders, Section 3212, Fall Protection for Work Around Skylights.

You are invited to participate in an advisory committee to be convened by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board staff. The advisory committee will consider proposed amendments to Section 3212 of the Title 8 General Industry Safety Orders entitled Floor Openings, Floor Holes and Roofs.

Due to improvements in skylight glazing technology, some skylights are as strong as, or stronger than, the covers required to be placed over them. Additionally, the standard as currently written contains inconsistencies: for example, if a screen is used above the skylight, it may not deflect downward sufficiently to break the glass, but if a personal fall arrest system is used, there are no prohibitions of breaking the glass. Skylight nets and screens underneath skylights may be effective fall protection tools in certain circumstances. The goal of the committee will be to clarify current requirements for fall protection when working around skylights and to evaluate the appropriateness of alternative means of protection.

The committee will discuss the need for, and feasibility of, any proposed changes to the current fall protection requirements for working around floor openings, floor holes, and roofs. Industry best practices and stakeholder input will be gathered to update the current regulation, if necessary.

The advisory committee will be held at the following time and location (please park in the back lot):

Thursday, August 14, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (or until adjournment)
Division of Occupational Safety and Health
2424 Arden Way
Suite 450 (Multipurpose Room)
Sacramento, CA 95825

Enclosed are the agenda, advisory committee roster, and draft proposal. The advisory committee is convened as the result of the Board decision resulting from Petition 531, which can be viewed here: http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/petition_531.html. The committee will focus on the Petition's proposed amendments.

Also, please be prepared to discuss any costs or economic impact to employers or affected industries that may result from the proposed standard. If you cannot attend the meeting, please

send an alternate, if possible, or submit your written comments by August 8, 2014 so that the committee can consider them.

Your assistance is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at the advisory committee meeting. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any items prior to the meeting, please contact me at (916) 274-5730, or at dkernazitskas@dir.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

David Kernazitskas, MSPH, CIH, CSP
Senior Engineer-Standards

Attachments:

Agenda
Advisory Committee Roster
Regulatory text (draft proposal)

cc: All Standards Board Members
Marley Hart, Executive Officer, OSHSB
Michael Manieri, Principal Engineer, OSHSB
Juliann Sum, Acting Chief, DOSH
Eric Berg, Acting Principal Safety Engineer, DOSH Research & Standards Unit
David Shiraishi, Area Director, Region IX, Federal OSHA
Kevin Thompson, Cal/OSHA Reporter