

Fall Protection for Trucks & Trailers

Products and materials constantly flow in and out of facilities and manufacturing plants on a daily basis. While traveling on public highways, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has jurisdiction. However, while loading and unloading trucks and trailers, OSHA regulations govern the safety and health of the workers and the responsibilities of employers to ensure their safety at the warehouse, dock, rig, construction site, and everywhere truck drivers go to deliver and pick up loads.

Depending on the load, drivers and/or employees may need to access the top of the truck or trailer for purposes of tarping/untarping, opening hatches, picking inventory, rigging, securing/unsecuring loads, etc. – placing the driver and/or employees at risk of falling.



Quite often this safety hazard goes unmitigated, either because the employer believes it is the responsibility of the truck driver or the employer never considered the potential liability and/or applicability to the OSHA fall protection standard. OSHA requires fall protection for those working at elevation, defined as 4 feet for General Industry and 6 feet for the Construction Industry.

[29 CFR 1910.23\(c\)\(1\)](#) *“Every open-sided floor or platform 4 feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level shall be guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent as specified in paragraph (e)(3) of this section) on all open sides except where there is entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder”.*



Due to the mobility and limited height associated with trucks and trailers (e.g., flatbed, tanker, bulk, semi-trucks), specialized fall protection systems are required to address fall clearance issues in the event of a fall. Various methods and equipment for fall protection include, but are not limited to:

- Gangways,
- Staircases,
- Custom Access Platforms,
- Rolling Platforms,
- Lanyards,
- Restraints, and
- Body Harnesses.





Affinity Consultants can assist in evaluating and implementing your organizations fall protection program. If you have any related questions regarding fall protection safety, please contact Tim Schwendeman at 330-854-9066 x12.