

DOSH DIRECTIVE

Division of Occupational Safety and Health
Department of Labor and Industries
Keeping Washington Safe and Working

30.20

Scaffolds and the Fall Protection Work Plan

(Updated) Date: April 5, 2011

I. Purpose

This directive establishes inspection procedures and enforcement policies regarding the appropriate application of the fall protection work plan requirements, in relation to scaffolds.

II. Scope and Application

This directive applies to all DOSH operations statewide. It replaces all previous instructions on this issue, whether formal or informal.

III. References

- Chapter 296-155 WAC, Parts C-1 and K, Safety Standards for Construction Work
- Chapter 296-874 WAC, Scaffolds

IV. Background

- A. On March 1, 2005, the scaffold sections of Chapter 296-155 WAC, Part J-1 of the Construction Safety and Health Standards and Chapter 296-24 WAC, Part J-2 of the General Industry Safety and Health Standards were repealed and replaced with Chapter 296-874 WAC, Scaffolds. Chapter 296-874 WAC is now a horizontal standard that addresses scaffold safety requirements and is applicable to all industries.
- B. Chapter 296-874 WAC requires, “each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level to be protected from falling to that lower level.” This standard also provides specific guidance regarding the appropriate fall protection to be used and requires “maximum feasible fall protection” to be used during scaffold erection and dismantling.

- C. WAC 296-155-24505 in the construction standard requires a written fall protection work plan whenever employees engaged in construction work are exposed to falls of 10 feet or more to a lower level. Questions have been raised about applying the written fall protection work plan requirements in Chapter 296-155 WAC to the specific requirements in chapter 296-874 WAC, that address erecting, using and dismantling scaffolds.

V. Enforcement Policies

- A. CSHOs must cite violations of the fall protection work plan requirements in WAC 296-155-245 **only** when the fall protection requirement being violated is actually located in Part C-1 and Part K of Chapter 296-155 WAC.
- B. CSHOs must **not** issue a citation for violations of the fall protection work plan resulting from the erection, dismantling and use of scaffolds subject to the requirements of Chapter 296-874 WAC. The fall protection violations in such circumstances must be restricted to those found in, or specifically referenced by, Chapter 296-874 WAC.
- C. CSHOs must apply the requirements of Part C-1 and Part K of Chapter 296-155 WAC, including the fall protection work plan, whenever employees:
 - 1. Are installing suspension scaffold or support systems on floors, roofs, and other elevated surfaces where there is a free fall distance of 10 feet or more to a lower level.
 - 2. Associated with the scaffold are working anywhere else, such as accessing the scaffold through the building, or installing fall protection anchors or scaffold ties while standing on a building or structure.

Approved:



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For more information about this or other DOSH directives, contact the Division of Occupational Safety and Health at P.O. Box 44610, Olympia, WA 98504-4610, or call 360-902-5436. To review policy information on the DOSH website, go to: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety>.