

**EXCERPTS FROM
OSHA PROPOSED RULES
AND ASME STANDARDS
APPLICABLE TO THE PROPER
AND SAFE USE OF
FORKLIFT WORK PLATFORMS**

OSHA 29 CFR PART 1910.31

- (e) Powered industrial truck platforms.
- (1) Platforms. Platforms shall be secured to the lifting carriage or forks of the industrial truck.
 - (2) Protection from moving parts. Employees on a platform shall be protected from the moving parts of the truck.
 - (3) Overhead protection. Overhead protection shall be provided when employees are exposed to objects falling from above.
 - (4) Minimum width. The minimum width of the platform shall be 18 inches.
 - (5) Fall protection system. Employees on platforms four feet or more off the ground shall be protected by a personal fall arrest system meeting the requirements of Part 1910.28

OSHA 29 CFR PART 1910.28

- (a) General requirements-guardrail use. Employees shall provide a guardrail system as the primary fall protection system for all walking and working surfaces regulated under this subpart unless the use of a guardrail is not feasible.
- (b) Guardrail system and toeboards.
- (1) Top rails. The top rail or member of a guardrail system shall be capable of withstanding, without failure, a force of at least 200 pounds applied within two inches of the top edge of the rail in any downward or outward direction at any point along the top edge. No permanent deformation is permitted in the system when the force is removed.
 - (2) Midrails.
 - (i) Midrails, screens, mesh, intermediate vertical members, solid panels, or equivalent structural members shall be provided between the top rail of the guardrail system and the work surface.
 - (ii) Midrails and equivalent structural members shall be capable of withstanding, without failure, a force of at least 150 pounds applied in any downward or outward direction at

any point along the midrail. No permanent deformation is permitted in the system when the force is removed.

- (iii) Midrails and other intermediate members shall be positioned so that the openings in the guardrail system are a maximum of 19 inches in their least dimension.
- (3) Height criteria. The height of the top rail or equivalent component of guardrail system shall be at least 42 inches above the walking or working surface.
- (4) Surfaces of guardrails. Guardrail systems shall be so surfaced as to prevent injury to an employee from punctures or lacerations, and to prevent snagging of clothing which could cause an employee to fall.
- (5) Size criteria. Top rails and midrails shall be at least one-quarter inch in outside diameter or thickness.
- (6) Access openings. Employers may use movable guardrail sections using such materials as gates, non rigid members and chains to provide access when opened and guardrail protection when closed, provided the criteria in paragraph (b)(1) through (b)(5) of this section. Toeboards are not required in access openings.
- (7) Toeboard requirements.
 - (i) Toeboards shall be capable of withstanding, without failure, an outward force of at least 50 pounds applied at any point in the direction of the exposed perimeter.
 - (ii) Toeboards shall be at least three and one-half inches in vertical height from their top edge to the level of the work surface.
 - (iii) Toeboards shall not be placed more than one-half inch above the work surface. They shall be solid or have openings not over one inch in their greatest dimension.