

## Work Area Guards and Handrails

### **4.54 Definitions**

In sections 4.54 to 4.63

"guard" means a protective barrier around an opening in a floor or along the open sides of stairs or a ramp, landing, balcony, mezzanine, raised walkway or any other area to prevent a fall to a lower level, or inadvertent entry into a dangerous area;

"guardrail" means a guard consisting of a top rail 102 cm to 112 cm (40 in to 44 in) above the work surface, and a midrail located approximately midway between the underside of the top rail and the top of the toeboard, if one is provided, or the work surface if no toeboard is provided.

*[Amended by B.C. Reg. 312/2010, effective February 1, 2011.]*

### Guarding floor and wall openings and holes.

1910.23(a)

"Protection for floor openings."

#### **1910.23(a)(1)**

Every stairway floor opening shall be guarded by a standard railing constructed in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section. The railing shall be provided on all exposed sides (except at entrance to stairway). For infrequently used stairways where traffic across the opening prevents the use of fixed standard railing (as when located in aisle spaces, etc.), the guard shall consist of a hinged floor opening cover of standard strength and construction and removable standard railings on all exposed sides (except at entrance to stairway).

#### **1910.23(a)(2)**

Every ladderway floor opening or platform shall be guarded by a standard railing with standard toeboard on all exposed sides (except at entrance to opening), with the passage through the railing either provided with a swinging gate or so offset that a person cannot walk directly into the opening.

#### **1910.23(a)(3)**

Every hatchway and chute floor opening shall be guarded by one of the following:

##### **..1910.23(a)(3)(i)**

1910.23(a)(3)(i)

Hinged floor opening cover of standard strength and construction equipped with standard railings or permanently attached thereto so as to leave only one exposed side. When the opening is not in use, the cover shall be closed or the exposed side shall be guarded at both top and intermediate positions by removable standard railings.

1910.23(a)(3)(ii)

A removable railing with toeboard on not more than two sides of the opening and fixed standard railings with toeboards on all other exposed sides. The removable railings shall be kept in place when the opening is not in use.

Where operating conditions necessitate the feeding of material into any hatchway or chute opening, protection shall be provided to prevent a person from falling through the opening.

#### **1910.23(a)(4)**

Every skylight floor opening and hole shall be guarded by a standard skylight screen or a fixed standard railing on all exposed sides.

#### **1910.23(a)(5)**

Every pit and trapdoor floor opening, infrequently used, shall be guarded by a floor opening cover of standard strength and construction. While the cover is not in place, the pit or trap opening shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected on all exposed sides by removable standard railings.

#### **1910.23(a)(6)**

Every manhole floor opening shall be guarded by a standard manhole cover which need not be hinged in place. While the cover is not in place, the manhole opening shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected by removable standard railings.

1910.23(a)(7)

Every temporary floor opening shall have standard railings, or shall be constantly attended by someone.

##### **..1910.23(a)(8)**

#### **1910.23(a)(8)**

Every floor hole into which persons can accidentally walk shall be guarded by either:

1910.23(a)(8)(i)

A standard railing with standard toeboard on all exposed sides, or

1910.23(a)(8)(ii)

A floor hole cover of standard strength and construction. While the cover is not in place, the floor hole shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected by a removable standard railing.