Fall Protection Checklist

This checklist covers regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) under the construction standards 29 CFR 1926.501 to 1926.503.

	Question	Regulation	Answer
General	Do walking and working surfaces have the strength and structural integrity to support people safely?	[29 CFR 1926.501(a)(2)]	
	Are employees prohibited from working on walking and working surfaces that cannot support them safely?	[29 CFR 1926.501(a)(2)]	
	If fall protection systems are required, are they installed before employees begin work?	Note: This requirement is not found in .502(a)(2)	
Unprotected Sides and	Do guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems protect employees when they work on unprotected sides and edges of walking and working surfaces that are 6 feet or more above a lower level?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(1)]	
	Do guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems protect employees during construction of leading edges 6 feet or more above lower levels?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(2)(i)]	
	Note: Exceptions are permitted if these systems are infeasible or create a greater hazard. However, a fall protection plan must still be developed and implemented.		
Hoist Areas	Do guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems protect workers in a hoist area from falling 6 ft. or more to lower levels?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(3)]	
	Does a personal fall arrest system protect employees if guardrail systems are removed for hoisting operations, requiring employees to lean through the access opening or out over the edge of the access opening (e.g., to receive or guide equipment and materials)?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(3)]	
Holes	Do personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around holes protect employees on walking and working surfaces more than 6 feet above lower levels from falling through holes (including skylights)?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i)]	
	Do covers protect employees on a walking and working surface from tripping in or stepping into holes (including skylights)?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(ii)]	
	Do covers protect employees on a walking and working surface from objects falling through holes (including skylights)?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(iii)]	
Equipment	Do guardrail systems or equipment guards protect employees from falling from less than 6 feet onto dangerous equipment?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(8)(i)]	
	Do guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, or safety net systems protect employees 6 feet or more above dangerous equipment from fall hazards?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(8)(ii)]	
Wall Openings	Are employees protected from falling by a guardrail system, a safety net system, or a personal fall arrest system if they are working on, at, above, or near wall openings (including those with chutes attached) where (a) the outside bottom edge of the wall opening is 6 feet or more above lower levels, and (b) the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches above the walking and working surface?	[29 CFR 1926.501(b)(14)]	

Protection From Falling Objects	When an employee is exposed to falling objects, are they required to wear a hard hat?	[29 CFR 1926.501(c)]	
	When an employee is exposed to falling objects, is one of the following measures implemented? Erect toe boards, screens, or guardrail systems to prevent objects from falling from higher levels. Erect a canopy structure and keep potential fall objects far enough away from the edge of the higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were displaced. Barricade the area to which objects could fall, prohibit employees and students from entering the barricaded area, and keep objects that may fall far enough away from the edge of a higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were displaced.	[29 CFR 1926.501(c)]	
Training	Has a training program been provided to everyone who might be exposed to fall hazards?	[29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1)]	
	Note: The training program must enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and know the procedures for minimizing these hazards.		
	Is the training program conducted by a *competent person*?	[29 CFR 1926.503(a)(2)]	
	The term "Competent Person" is used in many OSHA standards and documents. An OSHA "competent person" is defined as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them" [29 CFR 1926.32(f)]. By way of training and/or experience, a competent person is knowledgeable of applicable standards, is capable of identifying workplace hazards relating to the specific operation, and has the authority to correct them.		
	Have individual certification records been prepared that contain the name or other identity of the person trained, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the employer or person who conducted the training?	[29 CFR 1926.503(b)(1)]	
	Is the latest training certification for all persons trained available for inspection?	[29 CFR 1926.503(b)(2)]	
	Is retraining conducted if a person can no longer recognize the hazards of falling or follow the proper procedures?	[29 CFR 1926.503(c)]	
	Is retraining conducted when changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete?	[29 CFR 1926.503(c)(1)]	
	Is retraining conducted when changes in the types of fall protection systems or equipment render previous training obsolete?	[29 CFR 1926.503(c)(2)]	
	Is retraining conducted if a person cannot use fall protection systems or equipment or has not retained the requisite understanding or skill?	[29 CFR 1926.503(c)(3)]	

Added Notes: