

OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-197
Issued May 15, 1984
Revised May 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Fall Protection: General Industry

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:** OAR 437-002-1910.23, [Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes](#),
and OAR 437-002-0125, [Fall Protection](#)

PURPOSE: To clarify the applicability of OAR 437-002-1910.23(c)(1) and (3), and
OAR 437-002-0125 where employees are exposed to fall hazards.

BACKGROUND: In several Federal OSHA cases the courts found a lack of consistency in
the application of these standards, especially regarding when an elevated
surface is a platform.

ACTION: Employee exposures to falls from platforms are regulated under
1910.23(c)(1) or 1910.23(c)(3). Platforms are any elevated surfaces
designed or used primarily as walking or working surfaces, and any other
elevated surfaces where employees walk or work on a predictable and
regular basis. Requirements are triggered at 4 feet. A predictable and
regular basis means at least one instance of exposure every two weeks, or
a combined total of four hours or more of exposure during any sequential
four-week period by one or more persons.

When employees walk or work on elevated surfaces that do not fit the
above interpretation (less frequent than what is predictable and on a
regular basis), then the Oregon rules for Fall Protection, OAR 437-002-
0125, apply and the requirement is triggered at 10 feet.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:** Immediately.