

**Summary of fall protection requirements and threshold heights.**

System specifications are located in 880-400 unless otherwise referenced in 880-300.

**WAC 296-880 Unified Fall Protection**

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=296-880>

**WAC 296-880-10005 General requirements.** (Applies to all under the scope of this chapter)

(1) All surfaces	You must ensure that all surfaces on which employees will be working or walking on are structurally sound and will support them safely prior to allowing employees to work or walk on them.
(2) Inspection criteria	Inspect all components of personal fall arrest, personal fall restraint and positioning device systems prior to each use.
(3) Use of components	Systems and components used for employee protection not to hoist materials.
(4) Rescue	The employer must plan for and provide prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall or must assure the self-rescue capability of employees.

**WAC 296-880-10010 Fall protection required regardless of height.** (Applies to all under the scope of this chapter)

(1) Open-sided floors, walkways, platforms, or runways.	Regardless of height	Above or adjacent to dangerous equipment.	- Guardrail system
(2) Holes	Regardless of height	Into which an employee can trip, step into, or step through.	- Cover - Guardrail system
(3) Impalement hazards	Regardless of height	Falling into or onto.	

**WAC 296-880-10015 Training.** (Applies to all under the scope of this chapter)

Provide fall protection training for employees exposed to fall hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trained to know.</li> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding.</li> <li>- Demonstrate the ability to use.</li> <li>- Retraining.</li> <li>- Documentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation can be stored electronically</li> <li>- Signature of competent person who conducted the training, signature of the employer, or employer’s designee.</li> </ul>
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**WAC 296-880-10020 Fall protection work plan required at ten feet or more.** (Applies to all under the scope of this chapter)

Develop and implement a written fall protection work plan.	Ten feet or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify hazards, describe methods and procedures, be available onsite.</li> <li>- Train and instruct employees.</li> </ul>
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**WAC 296-880-20005 Fall protection required at four feet or more.**

This section sets forth requirements for the use of fall protection at four feet or more unless specifically addressed in WAC 296-880-300.

(1) Walking/working surfaces with unprotected sides or edges.	Four feet or more	<u>Except</u> as required in subsections (2) through (10) of this section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardrail system</li> <li>- Personal fall restraint system</li> <li>- Personal fall arrest system</li> <li>- Safety net system</li> <li>- Catch platform</li> <li>- Warning line system</li> </ul>	Additional provisions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stilts, platforms, or ladders above the protection of guardrails.</li> <li>- When guardrails must be temporarily removed.</li> </ul>
(2) Guarding of ramps, runways, and inclined walkways.	Four feet or more		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardrail system</li> </ul>	
(3) Holes.	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardrail system</li> <li>- Cover</li> <li>- Warning line system</li> <li>- Personal fall arrest system</li> <li>- Personal fall restraint system</li> </ul>	Additional provision when the cover, guardrail system, or warning line system must be temporarily removed.
(3)(b) Skylights and skylight holes.	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covers</li> <li>- Standard guardrail system</li> <li>- Personal fall restraint system</li> <li>- Personal fall arrest systems.</li> </ul>	If the skylight has been installed and is not capable of supporting, without failure, at least twice the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the skylight at any one time, the fall protection requirements apply.
(3)(c) Hatchways and chute holes	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hinged covers and a guardrail system.</li> <li>- Removable guardrail system</li> </ul>	
(3)(d) Ladderways or platforms	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardrail system</li> </ul>	
(3)(e) Pits and trap door holes	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covers</li> <li>- Guardrail system</li> </ul>	
(3)(f) Repair pits, service pits, and assembly pits	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cover</li> <li>- Guardrail system</li> <li>- Fall restraint system</li> <li>- Fall arrest system</li> </ul>	

(3)(g) Manholes	Four feet or more	Falling into or through.	- Cover	While the cover is not in place, the hole must be constantly attended or must be protected by a removable standard guardrail system.
(4) Openings	Four feet or more	Working on, at, above, or near openings.	- Guardrail system - Safety net system - Personal fall arrest system - Personal fall restraint system.	
(5) Form and reinforcing work	Four feet or more	Placing or tying reinforcing steel or working on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel.	- Personal fall arrest systems - Positioning device systems - Safety net systems.	
(6) Steep pitched roofs	Four feet or more	Regardless of the work activity.	- Fall restraint system - Personal fall arrest system - Positioning device system	
(7) Low pitched roofs	Four feet or more	Other than roofing work or constructing a leading edge.	- Personal fall restraint system; - Personal fall arrest system; - Positioning device system - Warning line system.	See 880-30005 for roofing work and constructing a leading edge.
(8) Safety watch system	Four feet or more	Repair work or servicing equipment on a low pitch roof.	- In accordance with 880-40050	Not within six feet of the edge and infrequent ( <b>not</b> on a predictable and regular basis)
(9) Hazardous slopes	Four feet or more	Construction work on a hazardous slope.	- Personal fall restraint system - Positioning device systems.	
(10) Vehicles and rolling stock.	Four feet or more	On which employees must be located in order to perform their job duties.	- Fall arrest systems - Fall restraint systems - Positioning device systems	- Where suitable anchorages cannot be provided or when the use of fall protection creates a greater hazard, work may be performed on vehicles or rolling stock without a fall protection system. Also see specific provisions in 880-300.

**WAC 296-880-20010 Exemption from fall protection requirements in section 200.**

(1) During initial installation of the fall protection anchor prior to engaging in any work activity, or the disassembly of the fall protection anchor after all work activities have been completed.		
(2) When employees are inspecting, investigating, or assessing roof level conditions or work to be performed only on low pitch roofs prior to the start of any work activity or after all work activities have been completed.		<p>Exemption does not apply on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steep pitch roofs</li> <li>- Where construction work is underway</li> <li>- When fall protection systems or equipment meeting the requirements of this chapter have been installed and are available for workers to use for pre-work and post-work inspections, investigations, or assessments.</li> </ul>

**WAC 296-880-30005 Construction work.**

This section applies to work activities under the scope of chapter 296-155 WAC, Safety standards for construction work, unless specifically addressed in WAC 296-880-200.

(1)(a) Engaged in roofing work on a low pitched roof	Ten feet or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall arrest system</li> <li>- Fall restraint system</li> <li>- Positioning device system</li> </ul>	Employees not performing roofing work must comply with WAC 296-880-200 Fall protection required at four feet or more.
(1)(b) Constructing a leading edge	Ten feet or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall arrest system</li> <li>- Fall restraint system</li> <li>- Positioning device system</li> </ul>	Employees not directly involved with constructing the leading edge must comply with WAC 296-880-200 Fall protection required at four feet or more.
(1)(c) Engaged in the erection or placement of structural members.	Ten feet or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall arrest system</li> <li>- Fall restraint system</li> <li>- Positioning device system</li> </ul>	When the erection or placement of structural members is performed on or from a floor, deck, roof, or similar surface you must comply with WAC 296-880-200 Fall protection required at four feet or more
(1)(d) Engaged in excavation and trenching operations.	Ten feet or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall arrest system</li> <li>- Fall restraint system</li> <li>- Positioning device system</li> </ul>	<p>Fall protection <u>is not required</u> at excavations when employees are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directly involved with the excavation process and on the ground at the top edge of the excavation; or</li> <li>- Working at an excavation site where appropriate sloping of side walls has been implemented as the excavation protective system.</li> </ul> <p>- Fall protection <u>is required</u> for employees standing in or working in the affected area of a trench or excavation</p>

			<p>exposed to a fall hazard of ten feet or more; and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The employees are not directly involved with the excavation process; or</li> <li>- The employees are on the protective system or any other structure in the excavation.</li> </ul>
(2)(a) Employees are exempt from WAC 296-880-30005 under the following conditions:		During initial installation of the fall protection anchor prior to engaging in any work activity, or the disassembly of the fall protection anchor after all work activities have been completed.	
(2)(b) Employees are exempt from WAC 296-880-30005 under the following conditions:		When employees are inspecting, investigating, or assessing roof level conditions or work to be performed only on low pitch roofs prior to the start of construction work or after all construction work has been completed.	<p>Exemption does not apply on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steep pitch roofs</li> <li>- Where construction work is underway</li> <li>- When fall protection systems or equipment meeting the requirements of this chapter have been installed and are available for workers to use for pre-work and post-work inspections, investigations, or assessments.</li> </ul>
(2)(c) Employees are exempt from WAC 296-880-30005 under the following conditions:		When employees must be located on vehicles, or rolling stock in order to perform their job duties.	

**WAC 296-880-30010 Order pickers (PITS).**

This section applies to powered industrial trucks under the scope of chapter 296-863 WAC, Forklifts and other powered industrial trucks.

(1) Order pickers	Regardless of height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard guardrails</li> <li>- Full body harness</li> </ul>	
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**WAC 296-880-30015 Elevating work platforms.**

This section applies to elevating work platforms covered under the scope of chapter 296-869 WAC, Elevating work platforms.

(2) Vehicle mounted aerial devices.	Before elevating the platform.	All persons on the platform wear a full body harness with a lanyard attached to either the manufacturer's attachment point or the boom or platform if the manufacturer does not specify an attachment point.	The employee must never attach a lanyard to an adjacent pole, structure, or equipment.
(3) Manually propelled and self-propelled elevating work platforms.	Before elevating the platform.	All persons on the platform are wearing fall protection devices and other safety gear, if required by the manufacturer of the platform.	Platforms that <u>cannot</u> be positioned completely beyond the base.
(4) Boom supported elevating work platforms.	Before elevating the platform.	All persons on the platform wear a full body harness and lanyard fixed to manufacturer provided and approved attachment points.	Platforms that <u>can</u> be positioned completely beyond the base.

**WAC 296-880-30020 Powered platforms.**

This section applies to permanent powered platform installations dedicated to interior or exterior building maintenance of a specific structure or group of structures under the scope of chapter 296-870 WAC, Powered platforms.

(4) Working on platforms	Regardless of height.	- Personal fall arrest system	
(5) Working on a roof or other elevated working surface	Four feet or more.	- In accordance with WAC 296-880-200	

**WAC 296-880-30025 Window cleaning.**

This section applies to all window cleaning activities performed on the inside or outside of a building in which the window cleaner is working from a level that is located more than four feet above grade or lower level under the scope of chapter 296-878 WAC, Safety standards for window cleaning.

(1) Working on a roof or other elevated working surface.	Four feet or more	- In accordance with WAC 296-880-200	
(2) Suspended from a boatswain's chair or rope descent system	Four feet or more	- An independent fall arrest system where the fall arrest anchorage is separate from the suspension system anchorage	
(3) Assemble and wear their personal fall arrest equipment before they approach the point of suspension.	Four feet or more		

**WAC 296-880-30030 Scaffolds.**

This section applies to suspended and supported scaffolds under the scope of chapter 296-874 WAC, Scaffolds.

(1) Each employee on a scaffold	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest system - Guardrails	
(3) Persons erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest system - Guardrails	Must provide if the installation and use is: - Feasible; <b>and</b> - Does not create a greater hazard.
(5) If a scaffold is too far from the work face.	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest system - Guardrails	If the distance is greater than: - Eighteen inches for scaffolds used for plastering and lathing operations; - Fourteen inches for all other scaffolds.
(6)(a) Specific types of fall protection for types of scaffold	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest system	- Boatswain's chair; - Catenary scaffold; - Float scaffold; - Ladder jack scaffold; - Needle beam scaffold.
(6)(b) Specific types of fall protection for types of scaffold	Ten feet or more	- Guardrails and a personal fall arrest system.	- Single-point adjustable suspension scaffolds; and - Two-point adjustable suspension scaffolds.
(7) Specific types of fall protection for types of scaffold	Ten feet or more	- Guardrails	- Self-contained adjustable scaffold that has the platform supported by the frame structure.
(7) Specific types of fall protection for types of scaffold	Ten feet or more	- Guardrails and a personal fall arrest system.	- Self-contained adjustable scaffold that has the platform suspended by ropes

**WAC 296-880-30035 Cranes.**

This section applies to all cranes covered under the scope of chapter 296-155 WAC, Part L, Cranes, rigging, and personnel lifting.

(2) Nonassembly/disassembly work on cranes/derricks except tower cranes.	Six feet or more	- Personal fall arrest systems - Personal fall restraint systems - Positioning device systems	When moving point-to-point: - On nonlattice booms (whether horizontal or not horizontal); - On lattice booms that are not horizontal; - On horizontal lattice booms where the fall distance is ten feet or more above a lower level. While at a work station on any part of the crane (including the boom, of any type).
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(3) Assembly/disassembly work on cranes/derricks except tower cranes.	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest systems - Personal fall restraint systems - Positioning device systems	
(4)(a) Tower cranes. Work other than erecting, climbing, and dismantling.	Six feet or more	- Personal fall arrest systems - Personal fall restraint systems - Positioning device systems	
(4)(b) Tower cranes. Erecting, climbing, and dismantling work.	Ten feet or more	- Personal fall arrest systems - Personal fall restraint systems - Positioning device systems	

**WAC 296-880-30045 Ship repairing, shipbuilding and shipbreaking.**

This section applies to all ship repairing, shipbuilding and shipbreaking industries and operations under the scope of chapter 296-304 WAC, Safety standards for ship repairing, shipbuilding and shipbreaking.

(1) Work aloft or elsewhere at elevations	More than five feet above a solid surface.		
(2)(a) Working in the vicinity of flush manholes and other small openings of comparable size	Covered or guarded to a height of not less than thirty inches,		Except where the use of such guards is made impracticable by the work actually in progress.
(2)(b) Working around open hatches not protected by coamings to a height of twenty-four inches or around other large openings	Guarded in the working area to a height of thirty-six to forty-two inches		Except where the use of such guards is made impracticable by the work actually in progress.
(2)(c) Exposed to unguarded edges of decks, platforms, flats, and similar flat surfaces	More than five feet above a solid surface	Guarded by adequate guardrails meeting the requirements of WAC 296-304-05001 (9)(a) and (b)	Unless the nature of the work in progress or the physical conditions prohibit the use or installation of such guardrails.
(2)(d) Working near the unguarded edges of decks of vessels afloat	Regardless of height	Protected by buoyant personal flotation devices, meeting the requirements of WAC 296-304-09017(1).	

(2)(e) Sections of bilges from which floor plates or gratings have been removed	Regardless of height	Guarded by guardrails	Except where they would interfere with work in progress.
(2)(f) Gratings, walkways, and catwalks, from which sections or ladders have been removed	Regardless of height	Barricaded with adequate guardrails.	

**WAC 296-880-30050 Longshore, stevedore, and waterfront related operations.**

This section applies to any and all waterfront operations under the scope of chapter 296-56 WAC, Safety standards—Longshore, stevedore, and waterfront related operations.

(1) Maintenance work on cranes, spouts or similar types of equipment	Eight feet or more	Full body harness and lanyard which can be attached to the structure.	
(2) Guarding of edges.	More than four feet from floor or wall openings or waterside edges, including bridges or gangway-like structures leading to pilings, vessel mooring or berthing installations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardrails</li> <li>- Where guardrails are impractical due to machinery requirements or work processes, an alternate means of fall protection, such as nets, must be used.</li> </ul>	Guardrails are not required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At loading platforms and docks;</li> <li>- At waterside edges used for cargo or mooring line handling;</li> <li>- On the working sides of work platforms, skids, or similar workplaces which abut the work area; or</li> <li>- On railroad rolling stock, highway vehicles, intermodal containers, or similar equipment.</li> </ul>

**WAC 296-880-30055 Ski area facilities and operations.**

This section applies to all persons, firms, corporations, or others engaged in the operation of organized ski areas and facilities under the scope of chapter 296-59 WAC, Safety standards for ski area facilities and operations.

(1)(a) Working in locations which expose them to a fall hazard	More than ten feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal fall arrest systems</li> <li>- Personal fall restraint systems</li> </ul>	Not required while riding on a standard lift chair while seated in the normal riding position.
(2) Ski lift facilities and structures. When working at unprotected elevated locations.	More than ten feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal fall arrest systems</li> <li>- Personal fall restraint systems</li> </ul>	Exception to this requirement must only be permitted for emergency rescue or emergency inspection if a personal fall arrest system is not immediately available. Required

			personal protective equipment must be made available as quickly as possible.
(4) Work platform use. (a) Passengers	More than ten feet	- Personal fall arrest systems - Personal fall restraint systems	
(4) Work platform use. (b) Any time a passenger's position is not protected by a standard guardrail at least thirty-nine inches high, the individual must be protected by a personal fall restraint system, which will not permit free-fall over the platform edge.	Regardless of height	- The individual must be protected by a personal fall restraint system, which will not permit free-fall over the platform edge.	