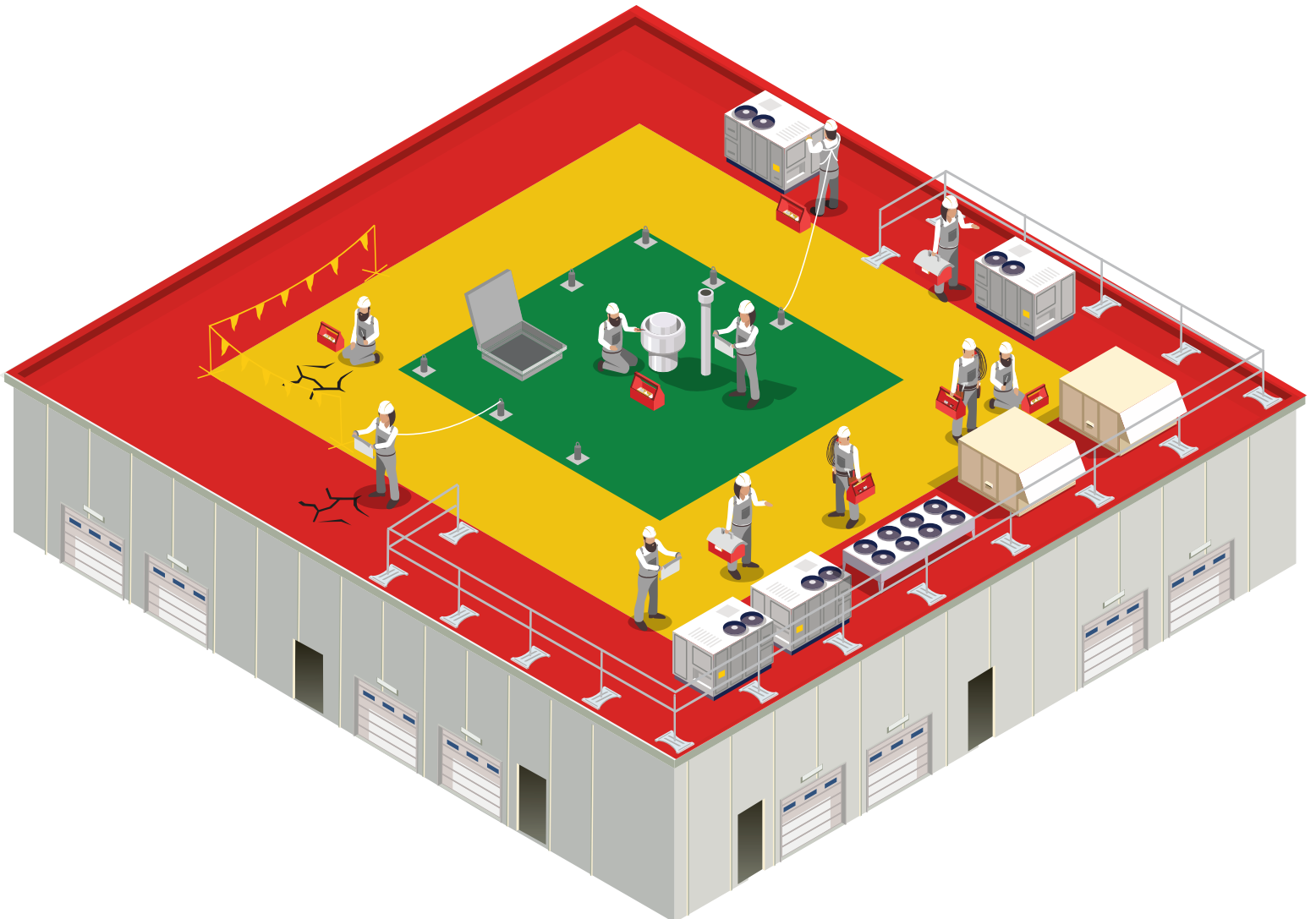
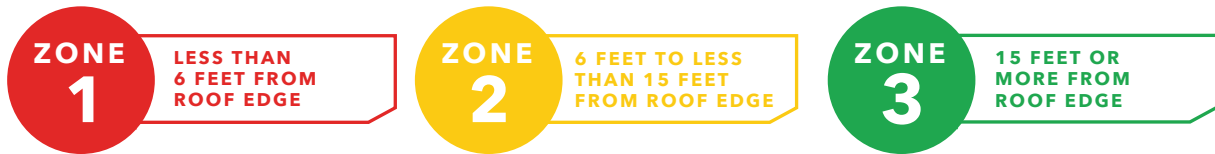


# WORKER SAFETY ON LOW-SLOPE ROOFS

Everything You Need To Know About This New OSHA RULE

OSHA's new rule (1910.28(b)(13)), defines low-slope roofs as a roof "having a slope less than or equal to 4 in 12 (vertical to horizontal)." This means that the roof's slope does not exceed a 4-inch vertical rise for every 12 inch in its horizontal length.

In accordance to the new rule, employers must use a different type of fall protection measure depending on the distance they work from the edge of the roof. Three distinct work zones are identified in this rule:





### ZONE 1

Less Than 6 Feet From Roof Edge

## DANGER LEVEL: EXTREMELY HIGH

Because a worker's risk of falling off the roof is highest when he performs tasks this close to the edge, OSHA believes it is an absolute MUST to use a conventional fall protection system.

#### SOLUTIONS:

guardrails, safety nets, personal fall protection, etc.



### ZONE 2:

6 Feet To Less Than 15 Feet From Roof Edge

## DANGER LEVEL: MODERATELY HIGH

Aside from a conventional fall protection system, an alternative safety measure is a workers' "designated area," but only for work that is "infrequent and temporary\*." OSHA's rule defines "designated area" as "a distinct portion of a walking-working surface delineated by a warning line in which employees may perform work without additional fall protection."

#### SOLUTIONS:

guardrails, safety nets, personal fall protection designated area, etc.



### ZONE 3:

15 Feet Or More From Roof Edge

## DANGER LEVEL: HIGH

A conventional fall protection system or a designated area is required by OSHA to protect workers carrying out tasks on this work zone. However, if work is both "infrequent and temporary," employers do not have to provide any fall protection. Work rules that prohibit employees from going within 15 feet of the roof edge should also be implemented and strictly enforced.

**SOLUTIONS:** (optional, if work is both "infrequent and temporary") conventional fall protection systems, designated area work rules



For purposes of OSHA's new rule, the terms "infrequent" and "temporary" are defined as follows:

"Infrequent" work refers to tasks or jobs performed only occasionally, when necessary, and at sporadic intervals. This includes annual maintenance and/or servicing of equipment, monthly or quarterly replacement of batteries or HVAC filters, or addressing equipment outages.

"Temporary" work means that the time workers need to finish their task is brief. These short tasks include those that workers are able to perform in less time than it takes to install conventional fall protection, as well as work that can be completed at one time rather than repeatedly.

When the duration of the task is short and the frequency is very minimal, OSHA believes worker exposure to fall hazards is very limited.



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