

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Chapter 7
Subchapter 7C
NC-OSHA

CFR Revision 104

Field Information System Part I

Powered Platforms for Building Maintenance

Discussion:

On July 28 1989, OSHA amended its Standard for Powered Platforms for Building Maintenance, 29 CFR 1910.66, Subpart F, to allow the use of alternative stabilization systems. The standard had allowed only stabilization systems which provided continuous positive means of engagement between the platform and the building facade. Such systems had proven to be infeasible for application to many new buildings with discontinuous vertical facades.

In addition, the amendment updates existing requirements using performance-oriented language, expands the scope to include coverage of interior installations (atriums) and includes requirements for emergency planning, employee training and personal fall protection for employees using powered platforms.

Background:

A powered platform is a suspended, manned platform that is installed on a building and is used to maintain the building facade. It is part of an installation which consists of the working platform, suspension means, fall arrest systems and the requisite operating and control devices.

The previous OSHA powered platforms standard (29 CFR 1910.66), adopted in 1971, required that all platforms be stabilized by direct attachment to continuous guide rails in the building facade, whenever the building height is greater than 130 feet (39.6m) in height. For structures less than 130 feet (39.6m) in height, continuous guide rails were not required, but the platform had to be equipped with building face rollers and angulated suspension wire ropes, which would cause the platform to exert pressure against the building facade. The purpose of these requirements was to stabilize the platform while it is in use by absorbing wind forces and horizontal forces caused by personnel movement on the platform.

During the years immediately following the promulgation of the OSHA standard, most high rise buildings were designed with straight building facades. This design adapted readily to the continuous guiderail requirement. In recent years, however, architects have also been designing buildings with multiple vertical planes, setbacks and complicated corner arrangements. These changes in building design have often made it difficult, infeasible, or costly to use continuous guide rails on many building facades. As a result, the new designs for high rise buildings have been responsible for the development of new types of stabilization systems for powered platforms. These new systems have provided employers the opportunity to select appropriate stabilization equipment that is capable of providing equivalent safety for workers and significant cost savings.

ACTION:

These new Federal amendments to 29 CFR 1910.66 have been adopted verbatim by the Commissioner of Labor with an effective date of June 1, 1990. A copy of the [Federal Register](#) announcements is attached. Please file this CFR Revision with the attachment in Part I of your Field Information System.

James A. Oppold, PhD, PE, CSP
Director
Signed on Original

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