NCDOL
NC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LUKE FARLEY, COMMISSIONER

FALL PROTECTION PLAN FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13) requires each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of 29 CFR 1926.501 provides for an alternative fall protection measure. However, when the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of 1926.502.

Important note: *There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.*

In addition, 1926.502(k)(6) states "The fall protection plan shall include a written discussion of other measures that will be taken to reduce or eliminate the fall hazard for workers who cannot be provided with protection from the conventional fall protection systems. For example, the employer shall discuss the extent to which scaffolds, ladders, or vehicle mounted work platforms can be used to provide a safer working surface and thereby reduce the hazard of falling."

The NCDOL OSH Division has also adopted Federal OSHA Directive: STD 03-11-002 Compliance Guidance for Residential Construction and should be used as a guide when developing a fall protection plan.

OSHA PUBLICATIONS:

OSHA Fall Protection in Residential Construction Fact Sheet

Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Erecting Exterior and Interior Walls

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls during Residential Construction: Floor Joist Installation and Decking

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Installing Standing Seam Metal Roofs Fact Sheet

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Installing Tile Roofs Fact Sheet

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Re-Roofing Fact Sheet

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Roof Repair Fact Sheet

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls During Residential Construction: Roof Sheathing Fact Sheet

Fall Protection: Reducing Falls during Residential Construction: Working in Attics