



Quick Guide: Rooftop Openings



how OSHA protects against rooftop fall hazards

Ensuring the safety of personnel accessing rooftop openings is a paramount concern for any responsible facility manager. It also comes with its own complex challenges, as you look to balance not only safety, but workspace accessibility, OSHA compliance, and your available budget for strengthening your organization's safety programs year-round. That's why you need a supplier who not only understands the potential hazards your workers can face while at height on a rooftop, but can recommend high-quality, cost-effective solutions to keep your team safe.

That's why Tractel®, part of Alimak Group, provides this quick guide for rooftop opening fall protection. In the next few pages, we'll cover the most common types of openings that present potential fall hazards, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations designed to safeguard your workers against those risks, and recommend products that can help you easily strengthen your organization's safety measures and regulatory compliance.

rooftop openings that need your attention

Hatches, temporary rooftop maintenance openings, and skylights are some of the most common that your workers could find themselves operating near when atop your facilities. Under the wrong conditions, they could also be some of the riskiest.



Hatches



**Temporary Rooftop
Maintenance Openings**



Skylights

Potential hazards around these rooftop openings may include:

- **Unclosed openings**, which could be a hazard to employees walking nearby if, for example, a hatch was left open or lacked an appropriate cover.
- **Unguarded openings** are those left unprotected by a lack of guardrails or other safety system. These could pose a risk, for instance, if a worker were able to step on an unguarded skylight made with fragile materials.
- **Unfavorable Weather Conditions** like rain, snow, and ice can create slippery conditions that are dangerous around temporary, unclosed, or unguarded openings. During winter months, ice and snow can also obscure openings, creating the potential for tripping, breaking through openings, and more.
- **Unclear signage** can increase the risk of falls around all types of openings, but temporary openings cut into a roof during construction or for special installation or maintenance purposes. Workers unfamiliar with their location could walk into them in the course of their duties.



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To protect against these and other potential fall hazards for workers on rooftops, OSHA provides fall protection standards for organizations like yours to comply with in order to more easily ensure safe operating conditions across work settings.

The specific standards that cover hatches, skylights and temporary maintenance openings include:

**Understand
that falls are
not hypothetical.**

Standard 1926.501(b)(4), which requires that each employee on a walking/working surface:

- “Be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes”
- “Be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes (including skylights) by covers”

Standard 1918.31, which requires that:

- “No cargo, dunnage, or other material shall be loaded or unloaded by means requiring the services of employees at any partially opened intermediate deck unless either the hatch at that deck is sufficiently covered or an adequate landing area suitable for the prevailing conditions exists.”
- “Missing, broken, or poorly fitting hatch covers that would not protect employees shall be reported at once to the officer in charge of the vessel. Pending replacement or repairs by the vessel, work shall not be performed in the section containing the unsafe covers or in adjacent sections unless the flooring is made safe.”

Standard 1918.35, which states:

- “Open weather deck hatches around which employees must work that are not protected to a height of 24 inches (.61 m) by coamings shall be guarded by taut lines or barricades at a height of 36 to 42 inches (.91 to 1.07 m) above the deck, except on the side on which cargo is being worked. Any portable stanchions or uprights used shall be supported or secured to prevent accidental dislodgement.”



the products that will help protect your people— and your business

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hatch defender

A non-penetrating safety solution specifically designed for rooftop hatches

The BlueWater Hatch Defender is a non-penetrating fall protection solution designed specifically for rooftop hatches. Featuring a unique compression attachment system, the Hatch Defender installs easily in minutes without any drilling required and can be dismantled just as easily for rooftop repairs.



roof hatch and skylight fall protection safety rails

A non-penetrating fall protection system for roof hatches and skylights

The BlueWater Roof Hatch and Skylight Guardrail System is a non-penetrating fall protection system for workplace safety around roof hatch and skylight openings. This system is the only product of its kind on the market that both meets or exceeds OSHA regulations and requires zero drilling or damage for installation. Ensure your employees' safety around roof hatches, skylights, fire vents, and floor doors, while keeping your surfaces uncompromised.



skylight defender

A non-penetrating skylight fall protection system

The BlueWater Skylight Defender is specifically designed to protect against injuries and deaths around skylight openings. The non-penetrating design is available in customizable sizes and features a unique compression attachment system. It installs in minutes and since there is no drilling required, you'll keep your surfaces uncompromised while maintaining a safe work environment for your employees.



mobile fall restraint anchor point

non-penetrating mobile safety solution for fall restraint



The BlueWater Mobile Fall Restraint Anchor Point is a freestanding safety solution specifically designed to provide worker safety at heights on flat roofs. The non-penetrating design features a swivel and pivoting attachment ring and a durable, corrosion-resistant safety yellow powder coat for high visibility. This simple-to-assemble anchor installs easily with no tools and no drilling required, keeping your work surfaces uncompromised while maintaining a safe environment for your employees.

safety harnesses

flexibility, mobility and durability

Our comprehensive selection of height safety products and solutions are relied upon in worksites around the globe. From bridge construction in Scotland to the highest points of some of Dubai's most renowned buildings, our equipment offers superior comfort and unparalleled protection at any altitude.



flat skylight defender

for standing seam roofs

Flat Skylight Defender Screen Model FSD is a metal screen system that is attached to the standing seam roof over a skylight panel to protect against injuries or death from accidental falls through the panel of the skylight. Model FSD is attached to the roof using the appropriate S-5 clamps for a strong/rigid installation.





consider tractel® for all your safety equipment needs

You need a partner who listens to your organizational and specific rooftop safety needs, then helps you implement innovative, cost-effective, and compliant solutions for your specific circumstances. If you're interested in that kind of strong relationship, reach out to Tractel®. With expert specialists to guide you, as well as unparalleled training and support, Tractel® helps you stay on the right side of safety regulations while protecting your workers at any height.

Choose the industry leader. Choose Tractel®.



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