



INFORMATION SHEET

Managing the risk of falls at workplaces

This information sheet provides general guidance for workers and persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) on how to manage the risk of falls at work under the work health and safety laws.

How do I comply with the work health and safety laws?

Under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and WHS (General) Regulations 2022 (WHS Regulations) thereunder, duty holders are required to manage the risk of falls at workplaces, as prescribed by the following regulations:

- Regulation 78 – Management of risk of fall
- Regulation 79 – Specific requirements to minimise risk of fall
- Regulation 79A – Duties of certain persons as to holes or openings in floors
- Regulation 80 – Emergency and rescue procedures

Transitional arrangements

The WHS Regulations provide transitional arrangements for managing the risk of falls.

High risk construction work in general industry

Until the close of 30 March 2025, regulation 3.55 of the OSH Regulations **must** be used for high risk construction work in general industry instead of regulation 79 of the WHS Regulations. Regulation 3.55 of the OSH Regulations specifies the control measures that should be applied when there is a risk of a fall of 2 metres or more from the edge of specified structures, including scaffolds or formwork, or 3 metres or more from any other edge at a workplace. Duty holders should still comply with regulations 78 and 79A of the WHS Regulations during this period, but risk controls cannot override the control measures in regulation 3.55 of the OSH Regulations (WHS General Regulations regs 714, 722).

Note: These transitional arrangements **only** apply to high risk construction work in general industry.

All other types of work, non-high risk construction work and construction work in the mining industry

Regulations 78, 79, 79A, 80, and Part 3.1 of the WHS (General) Regulations and WHS (Mines) Regulations had **no** transitional period, and must be complied with.

For more information on complying with these regulations, please refer to the [Code of practice: Managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#).

Falls between levels

A PCBU must manage the risks of falls from one level to another. If it is reasonably practicable, work must be done on the ground or a solid construction. Where this is not reasonably practicable, fall hazards must be controlled through adequate risk control measures.

PCBUs must prevent falls by providing:

- a safe system of work, which may include:
 - temporary work platforms
 - information, training and instruction related to risks of falls
 - safe work procedures
 - permit systems
 - appropriate signage
- a safe way to access and exit any area that has a risk of falls
- a fall prevention device (e.g. a secure fence, edge protection, working platforms, and covers). If a fall prevention device is not reasonably practicable, a work positioning system must be provided. Where neither of these are reasonably practicable, a suitable fall arrest system must be provided.

Additional hazards that apply specifically to the mining industry include:

- uneven surfaces due to broken ground and mine workings
- lack of visibility underground.

A combination of controls can be used to minimise risks so far as is practicable.

Further information

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

- [Code of practice: Construction work](#)
- [Code of practice: Managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#)
- [Code of practice: Managing the risk of falls in housing construction](#)
- [Guideline: Working at height in underground mines](#)

Safe Work Australia

- Information sheet: *Safe work method statement for high risk construction work*