

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

**PROGRAM DIRECTIVE**

**Program Directive:** A-197  
**Issued:** May 15, 1984  
**Revised:** January 25, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Fall Protection: General Industry

**AFFECTED CODES/  
DIRECTIVES:**

Division 2/D, [1910.23](#) Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes,  
[Division 2/1](#), OAR 437-002-0134(5) Fall Protection

**PURPOSE:** To clarify the applicability of 1910.23(c)(1) and (3), and OAR 437-002-0134(5) where employees are exposed to fall hazards.

**BACKGROUND:** In several Federal OSHA cases the courts found a lack of consistency in the application of these standards, especially regarding when an elevated surface is a platform.

**ACTION:** Employee exposures to falls from platforms are regulated under 1910.23(c)(1) or 1910.23(c)(3). Platforms are any elevated surfaces designed or used primarily as walking or working surfaces, and any other elevated surfaces where employees walk or work on a predictable and regular basis. Requirements are triggered at 4 feet. A predictable and regular basis means at least one instance of exposure every two weeks, or a combined total of four hours or more of exposure during any sequential four-week period by one or more persons.

When employees walk or work on elevated surfaces that do not fit the above interpretation (less frequent than what is predictable and on a regular basis), then the Oregon rules for Fall Protection, OAR 437-002-0134(5), apply and the requirement is triggered at 10 feet.

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE:**

Immediately.