

Summary of Kentucky Fall Protection Standards

General Standards

Residential Construction means construction work on a stand alone single family dwelling, duplex, three (3) plex, or four (4) plex structure.

Employees engaged in residential construction activities ten (10) feet or more above a lower level shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems (positive fall protection systems) or the approved alternative measures.

Employers need not demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use the approved alternative measures.

If an employer chooses to use any alternative measures other than those approved alternative measures, and can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard, the employer shall develop and implement a written fall protection plan.

Safety Plans do not have to be in writing or be job specific. A non-mandatory Sample Fall Protection for Residential Construction is available from the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Office.

There must be a competent person on each job site. The competent person has been through formal training and shall train the other employees as to safe practices. The Competent Person may also make changes to the safety plans. It is recommended that the Competent Person document all training.

Floor System

Employees engaged in residential floor system work exposed to a fall hazard ten feet or more above a lower level to the exterior or interior of the structure shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, and personal fall arrest systems or may implement the following alternatives when floor joists or trusses are eighteen (18) inches on center or less.

Floor Joists or Trusses

The first joist or truss must be placed into position and secured by workers on the ground from ladders or from a scaffold system.

Successive joists or trusses shall be placed into position and then secured from a secured temporary platform.

The temporary platform shall be at least eighteen (18) inches wide and secured.

Only the employees performing the work shall work from the platform and shall remain on the platform.

Floor Sheathing

The first row of floor sheathing shall be placed into position, installed, and secured from the ground, from ladders, from a scaffold system, or from a secured temporary platform at least eighteen (18) inches wide.

Only the employees performing the work shall work from the platform and shall remain on the platform.

After the first row of sheathing has been installed and secured only employees performing the installation shall work from the established deck or from a secured temporary platform at least eighteen (18) inches wide.

After two (2) rows of sheathing have been installed, only the employees performing the installation shall work from the established and secured deck or from a secured temporary platform at least eighteen (18) inches wide.

All other employees shall remain at least four (4) feet away from the leading edge.

Roof System

Employees engaged in residential construction roof truss or rafter work ten (10) feet or more above a lower level shall be protected by positive fall protection systems or:

The employee releasing the hoist line or installing the bracing shall move or work from within the webbing of the truss or within the rafters on a secured temporary platform at least eighteen (18) inches wide or shall maintain three (3) points of contact while moving or working within the webbing of the trusses or within the rafters.

Employees shall not move or work outside the webbing of the trusses or outside the rafters unless utilizing a personal fall arrest or restraint system.

Working in Attics

Employees engaged in residential construction attic work ten (10) feet or more above a lower level shall be protected by positive fall protection measures or:

Shall move or work within the webbing of the trusses or within the rafters on a secured temporary platform at least eighteen (18) inches wide. Employees must remain on the platform.

Roofing Materials

Supplies or materials shall not be placed or stored within six feet of the roof edge

No one shall be permitted to ascend, work on, or descend the roof within six (6) feet of the rake edge except while applying or removing roofing materials or equipment.

Roof Sheathing

Warning Line System

Employees engaged in residential construction roofing work ten (10) feet or more above a lower level on roof slopes 3 in 12 or less shall be protected by a combination of positive fall protection and a warning line system.

On roofs fifty (50) feet or less in width the use of a safety monitoring system alone is permitted.

Slide Guard Systems

Employers and employees installing residential construction roof sheathing with a ground to eave height up to twenty five (25) feet, or engaged in residential construction roofing work with a ground to eave height up to twenty five (25) feet may utilize a slide guard system.

Slide guard systems shall not be used with a slope of less than 4 in 12 or greater than 8 in 12.

Employer and employees installing residential construction roof sheathing who utilize a slide guard system shall install the slide guard system immediately after the first row of sheathing is installed.

All slide guard systems shall be installed, utilized and removed under the supervision of a competent person.

All slide guard systems shall be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications, limitations, and recommendations or the slide guards shall be constructed in accordance with the recommendations in the regulation.

If the slide guards are purchased from a manufacturer the manufacturers' specifications shall be available at the jobsite.

The face of the slide guard members shall be ninety (90) degrees perpendicular to the roof surface. Slide guard members shall be made of number two (2) or better construction lumber and have a minimum dimension of two (2) inches nominal by six (6) inches nominal.

All lumber shall be free of cracks or other visible defects and, any other type of material used for this purpose shall meet the same dimensions and be equivalent in strength and have specifications available at the site for review.

All perpendicular slide guard members shall be secured to the brackets and protected against cantilevering or failure due to material flex.

All slide guard systems shall be on the same walking/working surface as the employee being protected.

A continuous slide guard system below the walking or working surface shall be installed along the eave no closer than six (6) inches from the eave and remain in place until the work is completed.

Additional slide guard systems shall be installed below each walking or working area no more than eight (8) feet apart vertically.

The additional slide guards shall be installed as follows: the employee while standing on the slide guard below shall secure the roof bracket, or jack, for the next slide guard and then secure the next perpendicular slide guard member. This sequence shall be repeated as the work proceeds up the roof.

Once the work is completed and the slide guards are to be removed, the employee shall climb down to the next lower slide guard to remove the perpendicular member and the brackets or jacks. The employee shall repeat the sequence down the roof.

When all the above slide guards have been removed, the slide guards at the eave shall be removed.

Manufactured roof brackets or jacks shall be a minimum of six (6) inch brackets, be secured according to the manufacturers' specifications and be spaced no greater than eight (8) feet apart horizontally or according to the specifications, whichever is less.

Non-manufactured or site made slide guard systems shall comply with the following provisions:

Horizontal members shall be anchored with a minimum of two (2) sixteen (16) penny , or 16d, common nails at least every four (4) feet so that all nails penetrate the roof's surface and the rafter or truss below.

Perpendicular members shall be anchored to the horizontal members with a minimum of one (1) sixteen (16) penny, or 16d common nail at least every two feet, and have support bracing at least every six (6) feet. No more than one (1) person shall occupy any given eight (8) feet of a job made slide guard system.

Engineering specifications shall be available at the job site for review whenever design or installation does not meet the above minimum specifications. Engineering specs do not have to include and engineers seal, but shall establish that the job or site made slide guard systems are equivalent to a system constructed in accordance with the provisions established by this regulation.