



Buckingham

MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

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**Equipment for People
Working in High Locations**

**OSHA's New 1910.269 and 1926, Sub Part V Regulations
OSHA FINAL RULE SUMMARY
(In respect to PPE)**

The Electrical Protective Equipment for Construction Regulation applies to all construction and maintenance in electrical power generation, transmission, and distribution work. That regulation also replaces the existing construction regulations incorporation of out-of-date consensus standards with a set of performance-oriented requirements that is consistent with the latest revisions of the relevant consensus standards.

Revised §1910.269 and Subpart V became effective on July 10, 2014. However, the compliance deadline for some provisions on fall protection, minimum approach distances, and arc-flash protection is April 1, 2015 and after as indicated below.

On and after April 1, 2015:

- Qualified workers must use fall protection when climbing or changing location on poles, towers, or similar structures unless climbing or changing location with fall protection is infeasible or creates a greater hazard (as proven by the employer) than climbing or changing location without it. Until May 31, 2015, no citation will be issued under 29 CFR 1910.269(g)(2)(iv)(C)(2) or (3) or 29 CFR 1926.954(b)(3)(iii)(B) or (C) for qualified workers climbing or changing location on poles, towers, or similar structures that do not need to use fall protection equipment unless conditions could cause the employee to lose his or her grip or footing, provided that they are in compliance with 1910.269(g)(2)(v) which was in effect on April 11, 2014.
- During work on concrete & steel poles, an employee may use work-positioning equipment to climb to the work location using step bolts located on the pole.
- Under 29 CFR 1910.269(g)(2)(ii) and 29 CFR 1926.954(b)(1)(ii), fall arrest equipment must be capable of passing a drop test after exposure to an electric arc with a heat energy of 40 ± 5 cal/cm² if the workers using the fall protection are exposed to flames or electric arc hazards.
- Each employee working from an aerial lift shall use a fall restraint system or a personal fall arrest system. For a fall restraint system the lanyard and anchor are arranged so that the employee is not exposed to falling any distance. Under (29 CFR 1910.269(g)(2)(iv)(C)(1)), from March 31 to December 31, 2015, no citations will be issued for line clearance tree trimming in an aerial lift, using a body belt & lanyard attached to a boom, if ACTIVELY testing the use of a fall restraint system on the same type of lifts. Actively means having coordinated with a manufacturer of a fall restraint system, testing of that equipment in the field, and training has been provided to those crews. (Note: The only line clearance tree trimming OSHA intended to cover under 29 CFR 1910.269 is line-clearance tree trimming performed: (1) for the purpose



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of clearing space around electric power generation, transmission, or distribution lines or equipment and (2) on behalf of an organization that operates/controls those lines/equipment.)

- As referenced in 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(16)(iii), a Personal Fall Arrest system, when stopping a fall, shall be rigged such that, an employee can neither free fall more than 6 ft. (1.8 meters) nor contact any lower level. OSHA has clarified that the agency does not treat tree branches or utility line conductors / cables as lower levels. Additionally, OSHA does not treat a tower leg, cross bracing, or lattice work of a type commonly found on a tower, a substation structure, or a similar structure as a lower level for purposes of assessing compliance with 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(16)(iii), as incorporated in 29 CFR 1910.269(g)(2)(iv)(B) and 29 CFR 1926.954(b)(3)(ii).

Until further notice, no citation will be issued (29 CFR 1910.269, 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart V, or 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(16)(iii)):

- While the bucket is being ascended /descended if the fall arrest system is 29CPR 1926 Subpart M complaint, vehicle brakes are set & outriggers extended (29 CFR 1910.269(p)(2) and 29 CFR 1926.959(b)), and employer has taken necessary precautions against ejection hazards.
- For a fall arrest system being used in a bucket-type lift that could permit an employee to strike a structure in the event of a fall provided the fall arrest system is 29CPR 1926 Subpart M complaint, vehicle brakes are set & outriggers extended, employer has taken necessary precautions against ejection hazards, and employer can demonstrate that it is not possible to perform the work in compliance. OSHA suggests that workers use the shortest lanyard practicable during ascent, descent and when working over structures to maximize worker protection.
- For a fall arrest system being used on a tower which in the event of a fall, could allow a worker to strike a tower arm that is a lower level provided the fall arrest system is 29CPR 1926 Subpart M complaint, and employer can demonstrate that it is not possible to perform the work using a work position and compliant fall protection equipment that together would prevent the employee from striking the lower arm.