

Body Belts Prohibited for Construction Fall Arrest Systems

Effective January 1, 1998, the use of body belts for fall arrest is prohibited by OSHA (29 CFR 1926 Subpart M).



Full Body Harness Now Required

After January 1, 1998, for applications that would have required this type of fall arrest, the full body harnesses will be the equipment of choice for the personal fall arrest system.

Locking Snaphooks

Also effective January 1, 1998 is the requirement to use locking snaphooks in the personal fall arrest system.

The locking snaphook has a self-closing, self-locking keeper which remains closed and locked until unlocked and pressed open for connection or disconnection.

The snaphooks are commonly used on the lanyards attached to the rings of the body belt and anchorage points.

Positioning Devices Still Allowed

You may see some systems that look like body belts being used. OSHA still allows the use of positioning device systems.

A positioning device may be a body belt or body harness system rigged to allow an employee to be supported on an elevated vertical surface, such as a wall, and work with both hands free.

Locking snaphooks are also required on these systems, effective January 1, 1998.

Additionally, they must be rigged so the employee cannot fall more than two feet.

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford's Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

The information provided in these materials is intended to be general and advisory in nature. It shall not be considered legal advice. The Hartford does not warrant that the implementation of any view or recommendation contained herein will: (i) result in the elimination of any unsafe conditions at your business locations or with respect to your business operations; or (ii) will be an appropriate legal or business practice. The Hartford assumes no responsibility for the control or correction of hazards or legal compliance with respect to your business practices, and the views and recommendations contained herein shall not constitute our undertaking, on your behalf or for the benefit of others, to determine or warrant that your business premises, locations or operations are safe or healthful, or are in compliance with any law, rule or regulation. Readers seeking to resolve specific safety, legal or business issues or concerns related to the information provided in these materials should consult their safety consultant, attorney or business advisors. All information and representations herein are as of March 2009.

LOSS CONTROL CHLCC