

Oregon OSHA – Proposed Oregon OSHA correction to
The Personal Climbing Equipment Rules for
Telecommunication Activities in
General Industry

September 2017

Text removed is in [~~brackets with line through~~].

Text added is in **bold and underline**.

DIVISION 2, GENERAL INDUSTRY
Division 2/R, Special Industries

437-002-0300

Adoption by Reference. In addition to and not in lieu of, any other health and safety codes contained in OAR Chapter 437, the Department adopts by reference the following federal regulations printed as part of the Code of Federal Regulations, 29 CFR 1910, in the Federal Register:

- (1) Reserved for 29 CFR 1910.261 Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Mills
 - (2) 29 CFR 1910.262 Textiles, published 11/18/16, FR vol. 81, no. 223, p. 82494.
 - (3) 29 CFR 1910.263 Bakery Equipment, published 3/7/96, FR vol. 61, no. 46, p. 9241.
 - (4) 29 CFR 1910.264 Laundry Machinery and Operations, published 11/7/78, FR vol. 43, p. 51760.
 - (5) 29 CFR 1910.265 Sawmills, published 11/18/16, FR vol. 81, no. 223, p. 82494.
 - (6) Reserved for 29 CFR 1910.266 Pulpwood Logging. (NOTE: In Oregon, Pulpwood Logging rules are Oregon-initiated rules provided in Division 7, Forest Activities.)
 - (7) Reserved for 29 CFR 1910.267 Agricultural Operations
 - (8) 29 CFR 1910.268 Telecommunications, published 11/18/16, FR vol. 81, no. 223, p. 82494.
 - (9) 29 CFR 1910.269 Electric power generation, transmission and distribution. Repealed with Oregon OSHA Admin. Order 3-2015, f. 10/9/15, ef. 1/1/16. In Oregon, Division 2/RR applies.
 - (10) 29 CFR 1910.272 Grain Handling Facilities, and Appendices A, B and C, published 3/7/96, FR vol. 61, no. 46, p. 9242.
 - (11) 29 CFR 1910.274 Removed. Published 3/7/96, Federal Register, vol. 61, no. 46, p. 9242.
 - (12) 29 CFR 1910.275 Removed. Published 3/7/96, Federal Register, vol. 61, no. 46, p. 9242.
- These standards are available from the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA), Department of Consumer and Business Services; and the United States Government Printing Office.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: APD Admin. Order 10-1988, f. 7/7/88, ef. 7/7/88 (Grain Handling).

OR-OSHA Admin. Order 23-1990, f. 9/28/90, ef. 12/1/90 (Grain Handling).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 27-1990, f. 12/12/90, ef. 2/1/91 (Tree and Shrub Services).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 14-1991, f. 10/10/91, ef. 11/1/91 (Textiles, Bakeries, Laundries).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 7-1993, f. 6/8/93, ef. 8/1/93 (Sawmills).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 11-1993, f. 8/4/93, ef. 10/1/93 (Telecommunications).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-1994, f. 8/1/94, ef. 8/1/94.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-1996, f. 7/22/96, ef. 7/22/96 (Grain Handling Facilities).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 4-1997, f. 4/2/97, ef. 4/2/97.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-1998, f. 7/7/98, ef. 7/7/98.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-1999, f. 4/30/99, ef. 4/30/99 (Telecommunications).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 4-1999, f. 4/30/99, ef. 4/30/99.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 5-2001, f. 4/6/01, ef. 4/6/01 (Elec. Power Gen., Trans. & Dist.).
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 4-2005, f. 12/14/05, ef. 12/14/05.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 6-2012, f. 9/28/12, ef. 4/1/13.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2015, f. 10/9/15, ef. 1/1/16.
 OR-OSHA Admin. Order 2-2017, f. 5/16/17, ef. 11/1/17.
OR-OSHA Admin. Order 6-2017, f. 9/5/17, ef. 11/1/17.

1910.268 Telecommunications.

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(g) Personal climbing equipment.

(1) General. ~~{Safety belts and straps shall be provided and the employer shall ensure their use when work is performed at positions more than 4 feet above ground, on poles, and on towers, except as provided in paragraphs (n)(7) and (n)(8) of this section. No safety belts, safety straps or lanyards acquired after July 1, 1975 may be used unless they meet the tests set forth in paragraph (g)(2) of this section. The employer shall ensure that all safety belts and straps are inspected by a competent person prior to each day's use to determine that they are in safe working condition.}~~ **A positioning system or a personal fall arrest system shall be provided and the employer shall ensure their use when work is performed at positions more than 4 feet (1.2 m) above the ground, on poles, and on towers, except as provided in paragraphs (n)(7) and (8) of this section. These systems shall meet the applicable requirements in subpart I of this part. The employer shall ensure that all climbing equipment is inspected before each day's use to determine that it is in safe working condition.**

~~{(2) Telecommunication lineman's body belts, safety straps, and lanyards.~~

~~(i) General requirements.~~

~~(A) Hardware for lineman's body belts, safety straps, and lanyards shall be drop forged or pressed steel and shall have a corrosion resistant finish tested to meet the requirements of the American Society for Testing and Materials B117-64, which is incorporated by reference as specified in §1910.6 (50-hour test). Surfaces shall be smooth and free of sharp edges. Production samples of lineman's safety straps, body belts and lanyards shall be approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, as having been tested in accordance with and as meeting the requirements of this paragraph.~~

~~(B) All buckles shall withstand a 2,000-pound tensile test with a maximum permanent deformation no greater than 1/64-inch.~~

~~(C) D rings shall withstand a 5,000-pound tensile test without cracking or breaking.~~

~~(D) Snaphooks shall withstand a 5,000-pound tensile test, or shall withstand a 3,000-pound tensile test and a 180° bend test. Tensile failure is indicated by distortion of the snaphook sufficient to release the keeper; bend test failure is indicated by cracking of the snaphook.~~

~~(ii) Specific requirements.~~

(A)

(1) All fabric used for safety straps shall be capable of withstanding an A.C. dielectric test of not less than 25,000 volts per foot "dry" for 3 minutes, without visible deterioration.

(2) All fabric and leather used shall be tested for leakage current. Fabric or leather may not be used if the leakage current exceeds 1 milliampere when a potential of 3,000 volts is applied to the electrodes positioned 12 inches apart.

(3) In lieu of alternating current tests, equivalent direct current tests may be performed.

(B) The cushion part of the body belt shall:

(1) Contain no exposed rivets on the inside. This provision does not apply to belts used by craftsmen not engaged in line work.

(2) Be at least 3 inches in width;

(3) Be at least 5/32-inch thick, if made of leather; and

(C) (Reserved)

(D) Suitable copper, steel, or equivalent liners shall be used around the bars of D rings to prevent wear between these members and the leather or fabric enclosing them.

(E) All stitching shall be done with a minimum 42-pound weight nylon or equivalent thread and shall be lock stitched. Stitching parallel to an edge may not be less than 3/16-inch from the edge of the narrowest member caught by the thread. The use of cross stitching on leather is prohibited.

(F) The keepers of snaphooks shall have a spring tension that will not allow the keeper to begin to open when a weight of 2-1/2 pounds or less is applied, but the keepers shall begin to open when a weight of 4 pounds is applied. In making this determination, the weight shall be supported on the keeper against the end of the nose.

(G) Safety straps, lanyards, and body belts shall be tested in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) Attach one end of the safety strap or lanyard to a rigid support, and the other end to a 250-pound canvas bag of sand;

(2) Allow the 250-pound canvas bag of sand to free fall 4 feet when testing safety straps and 6 feet when testing lanyards. In each case, the strap or lanyard shall stop the fall of the 250-pound bag;

(3) Failure of the strap or lanyard shall be indicated by any breakage or slippage sufficient to permit the bag to fall free from the strap or lanyard.

(4) The entire "body belt assembly" shall be tested using a D ring. A safety strap or lanyard shall be used that is capable of passing the "impact loading test" described in paragraph (g)(2)(ii)(G)(2) of this section and attached as required in paragraph (g)(2)(ii)(G)(1) of this section. The body belt shall be secured to the 250-pound bag of sand at a point which simulates the waist of a man and shall be dropped as stated in paragraph (g)(2)(ii)(G)(2) of this section. Failure of the body belt shall be indicated by any breakage or slippage sufficient to permit the bag to fall free from the body belt.]

([3]2) Pole climbers.

(i) Pole climbers may not be used if the gaffs are less than 1-1/4 inches in length as measured on the underside of the gaff. The gaffs of pole climbers shall be covered with safety caps when not being used for their intended use.

(ii) The employer shall ensure that pole climbers are inspected by a competent person for the following conditions: Fractured or cracked gaffs or leg irons, loose or dull gaffs, broken straps or buckles. If any of these conditions exist, the defect shall be corrected before the climbers are used.

(iii) Pole climbers shall be inspected as required in this paragraph (g)(3) before each day's use and a gaff cut-out test performed at least weekly when in use.

(iv) Pole climbers may not be worn when:

(A) Working in trees (specifically designed tree climbers shall be used for tree climbing),

- (B) Working on ladders,
- (C) Working in an aerial lift,
- (D) Driving a vehicle, nor
- (E) Walking on rocky, hard, frozen, brushy or hilly terrain.

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