



Walking-Working Surfaces

OREGON OSHA has instituted plans to comply with the new OSHA Walking Working Surfaces Subpart D regulations.

4. Anchorages for Rope Descent and Rope Access Systems (a) Permanent Anchorages on Buildings

(A) Before any rope descent or rope access system is used, the **building owner** must inform the employer (contractor), in writing that the building owner has identified, tested, certified, and maintained each permanent anchorage so it can support at least 5,000 pounds (22.24kN), in any direction, for each employee attached. This information must be based on an **annual inspection** by a qualified person and **certification** of each anchorage by a qualified person, as necessary, and at least **every 10 years**.

(B) The **employer** must ensure that no employee uses any permanent anchorage before the employer has obtained **written information from the building owner** that each anchorage meets the requirements of 437-002-2027(4)(a)(A). The employer must keep the information for the duration of the job.

(C) The requirements of 437-002-2027 (4)(a)(A) and (B) must be implemented no later than **December 1, 2018**.

There are several important regulations, including deadlines for compliance:

- Window cleaning contractors using rope descent systems (RDS) are required to obtain **written confirmation from a building owner** that the anchorage points used for rigging such systems have been identified, tested, certified and maintained so they are capable of support 5,000 lbs. in any direction they are loaded, per each worker attached.
- Contractors are required to **train their workers** with identifying and avoiding all fall hazards while on a walking or working surface.
- Workers are to be trained in the use, care and inspection of all the equipment outlined in the new regulations.
- To insure continued safety, workers are to be retrained in these areas on a regular basis.
- Testing / certification may take time to produce and will require the services of an architect or engineering firm.
- The enforcement of this regulation, which is a shared responsibility between the contractor and building owner, begins on **November 20, 2017**.

A copy of the Final Rule can be obtained at: <https://www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/>