

Ca/OSHA Fall Protection Update – Effective July 1, 2025

New 6-Foot Rule

Fall protection is now required at **6 feet** (down from 15), aligning with Federal OSHA.


 Applies to:

- Roofers, framers, carpenters, and anyone working ≥ 6 feet on **residential or light commercial** structures.

Approved Fall Protection Systems

Use **one or more** of the following:

- Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS)
- Guardrails
- Safety Nets
- Scaffolding

 **Slide guards** are no longer allowed!

Fall Protection Plan (FPP) – Only If Necessary

- Use **ONLY** when conventional methods are **infeasible**
- Must be **site-specific**, maintained, and developed by a **qualified person**
- Includes: Safety monitors + Controlled access zones

Employers must prove infeasibility—default expectation is that fall protection **is** feasible.

Framing & Construction (Section 1716.2)

- **Trigger height: 6 feet**
- Applies to top plates, joists, rafters, trusses, sheathing, walls, windows, siding, trim.
- Residential-type framing includes light commercial using wood-frame construction.

Interior Work Exception (6–15 ft) – FPP may be used if:

- Structural members are braced or laid flat
- ≤ 24 " spacing or sheathing installed
- Workers are ≥ 6 ft from edges

Roofing Work (Section 1731)

- Applies to **all residential roofing**, including re-roofs and custom homes. “Work” includes loading material!
- Fall protection required at **6 feet**, regardless of slope

 No more exceptions for:

- Slopes 3:12 – 7:12
- Slide guards
- Roof jack systems
- Short-duration tasks

Scaffolds & Openings

- Must follow scaffold regulations (CSO Articles 21 & 22)
- Openings must be guarded (Section 1632)
- Special rules apply for truss support platforms and scaffold proximity to walls

Bottom Line:

If you're working ≥ 6 feet off the ground, you need fall protection—no exceptions, no shortcuts.