



# Rooftop Fixed Ladder Fall Prevention – OSHA Compliance & Solutions

## Main OSHA Regulation

*1910.28(b)(1)(i)* The employer must ensure that walking-working surfaces with an unprotected side or edge that is 4 feet or more above a lower level is protected by Guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall protection systems such as personal fall arrest or restraint.

*1910.29(b)(2)(iii)* Intermediate vertical members (such as balusters) are installed no more than 19 inches (48 cm) apart; and *1910.29(b)(2)(iv)* Other equivalent intermediate members (such as additional midrails and architectural panels) are installed so that the openings are not more than 19 inches (48 cm) wide.

## What does this mean to you?

When there is an external ladder and the distance to the lower level is 4' or more, fall protection must be used. If a personal fall arrest or restraint system is used nothing else is required. If the perimeter is enclosed with the guardrail, a self-closing gate is required due to the 19" or greater gap the ladder creates in the perimeter. If neither is used then a ladder guard with a self-closing gate is required. A ladder guard with a self-closing gate being 6' in length forces the worker beyond the 6' zone near the leading edge and protects them when within this 6' zone to access the ladder.