



## Standard Operation Procedure:

**FALL PROTECTION**

## Low Clearance on Vertical Surfaces

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Corporate Safety Director	Andrew Cowart	20-May-2021	

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## Table of Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>SOP CHALLENGE STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>ILLUSTRATIONS / VISUALS</b> .....	<b>4</b>

## 1.0 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

*For the purposes of this document, standard acceptable work practices related to fall protection for specific work scopes and/or challenges. These SOPs are to be used for creating a standard for the best practices known for accomplishing our work in the safest manner possible and offering our employees the best possible protection.*

*SOPs must be submitted to the corporate safety department for review and approval before distributing across the company.*

## 2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Working on vertical surfaces such as wall or column forming operations.

## 3.0 SOP CHALLENGE STATEMENT

OSHA requires fall protection when exposed to a 6-foot fall (4 foot in the State of WA), while requiring the employer to ensure employees using fall arrest are arrested before contacting the lower level.

This creates a challenge with maintaining the appropriate fall clearance outlined by the manufacturers supplied instructions/calculations while using fall arrest gear at lower elevations on vertical surfaces, even with an overhead anchorage point.

For example, a Nano-Lock Edge requires a 7-foot fall clearance with a worker between 220lbs – 310lbs when anchored directly overhead. When moving side-to-side, the required clearance increases to 10 to 12-foot depending on the employee's exact position relative to their anchor point. This creates a challenge between the regulated 4 to 6-foot protection requirement and the fall clearance required by the equipment. Examples of this work would be installing a wall form, column form, or rebar cage, and likely includes many other operations.

The following operational controls will be implemented when working at lower elevations utilizing a Nano-Lok Edge or other anchor mounted SRLs outlined in our Fall Protection Guide. Work plans and fall protection plans should be developed and executed with the following method:

- 1) Employees will exhaust other methods for fall protection as outlined in the hierarchy of controls.
- 2) Employees will always maintain connection to suitable fall arrest anchor points while climbing and in position working.
- 3) Anchor mounted SRL shall be placed to minimize lateral movement below the anchorage point, reducing swing fall hazards.
- 4) Once an employee has reached their work location, at any location/elevation the manufacturer's fall distance chart does not provide the necessary fall clearance, they must engage a positioning device as an additional fall protection system.
- 5) The positioning device (P-Hook) shall be anchored to a suitable positioning anchorage of at least 3,000lb, or meet local agency regulations for capacity.
- 6) During this application, the positioning device must have full closure of the gate on the snap hook while it is anchored.

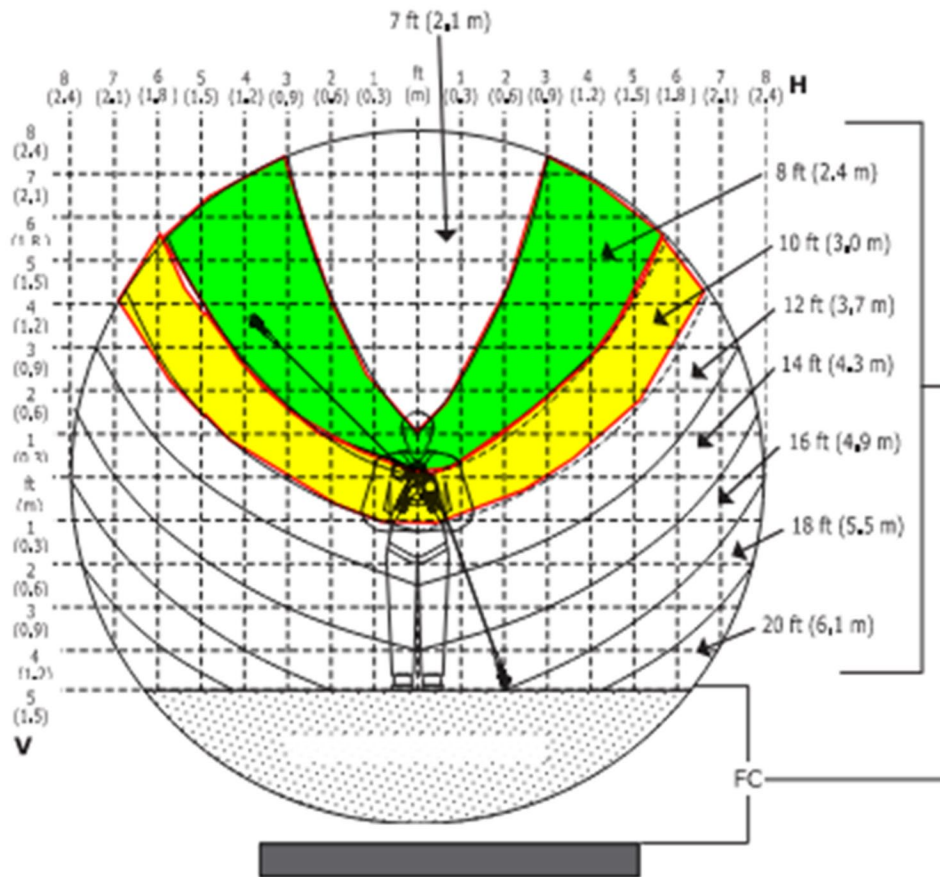
## 4.0 ILLUSTRATIONS / VISUALS



Utilize Nano-Lock while climbing/traversing



At work location engage P-hook to reduce fall distance to 2 feet



**APPROVALS (FOR CORPORATE SAFETY USE)**

*(Document reviewers such as: OSHA, State OSHA, MFGR Experts, Legal, Operations, District Managers)*