



SHORING SECTION

SSFI TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Fall Protection and Shoring

Erection and dismantling of shoring, while similar to erection and dismantling of scaffolds, is not covered by Federal OSHA Part 1926 Subpart L (Scaffolds). Shoring requirements are found in Subpart Q (Concrete and Masonry Construction), but fall protection is not addressed. Therefore, fall protection shall meet the applicable requirements of Subpart M (Fall Protection). This means that when a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) is used, in addition to meeting other requirements, it must be attached to a 5000 pound anchor or be part of an engineered fall protection system that maintains a factor of safety of two.

Using a shoring tower as an anchor point for a PFAS is not recommended unless the tower has been engineered to serve as a PFAS anchorage. Typically, shoring is erected using the leading edge method. Leading edge means the edge of a floor, roof, or formwork for a floor or other walking/working surface (such as deck) which changes location as additional floor, roof, decking, or formwork sections are placed, formed, or constructed.

Under this method, only those workers directly involved in leading edge erection may be at the leading edge. Due to the continuously changing leading edge, it is not feasible to use guardrails, safety nets or personal fall arrest systems. The employer must have a fall protection plan and ensure that all employees follow the plan. Those employees performing the leading edge work must be trained in the type of shoring equipment being erected and must be aware of all hazards involved in the work.

The following standards apply to the use of fall protection and shoring:

- ❖ 29CFR1926, Subpart Q (OSHA concrete standards)
- ❖ 29CFR1926, Subpart M (OSHA fall protection standards)
- ❖ ANSI A10.9, Concrete and Masonry Work Safety Requirements
- ❖ American Concrete Institute, ACI-347

This Technical Bulletin was prepared by members of the SSFI Shoring Section.

SSFI is a trade association comprising manufacturers of shoring, scaffolding, forming, and suspended scaffolding. The institute focuses on engineering and safety aspects of scope products.

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