

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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December 19, 2005

"The Employer"

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing in response to the employer's email dated December 14, 2005, in which the employer requests a deviation from *Occupational Health and Safety Act* General Regulation 91-191, section 49(3)(b) that states:

49(3)(b) An individual fall-arresting system shall prevent an employee from falling freely for more than 1.2 m.

In the employer's email, the employer has requested approval to change the free fall limit indicated in section 49(3)(b) from 1.2m to 1.8m. This application for deviation is a result of a request from the owner's Group Safety Manager for the new Project.

To comply with the granted deviation, the employer is going to purchase new energy absorber y-lanyards series FPAE2GG, manufactured by NORTH. The employer has supported the employer's deviation request with technical information on the new NORTH y-lanyards via fax.

The WHSCC has developed an interpretation that deals with free falls of more than 1.2 metres when a CSA approved shock absorber is utilized. The interpretation states that a free fall of more than 1.2 metres is permitted provided the following is met:

1. there is enough clearance;
2. the shock absorber used is rated by the manufacturer for the free fall distance to which it could be subjected;
3. the fall protection equipment is used as per manufacturer specification; and
4. the users of the fall protection equipment have been trained in the use of the equipment.

The Chief Compliance Officer has enclosed a copy of the interpretation for the employer's perusal.

Based on the information contained in the interpretation and the technical data sheet the employer has provided on the NORTH energy absorber y-lanyard series FP2AEGG, a deviation is not required. The Chief Compliance Officer would, however, like to emphasize the following details found in the technical data sheet:

Maximum fall distance allowed is 10 ft. (3.0m)

- Note: 10 ft. free fall does not apply to worker weighing over 310 lbs; workers weighing between 310 lbs. And 440 lbs. cannot exceed a 6 ft. free fall.

Maximum arresting load is 900 lbs (4kN).

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff of the decision.

Sincerely,

Chief Compliance Officer

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