



Safety Netting Installation

Where workers on a construction site are exposed to vertical drops of 6 feet or more, OSHA requires that employers provide fall protection in one of three ways *before* work begins:

- Placing guardrails around the hazard area.
- Install safety nets.
- Providing personal fall arrest systems for each employee.

Many times the nature and location of the work will dictate the form that fall protection takes. If the employer chooses to use a safety net system, he must comply with the following provisions:

- Safety nets must be installed as close as practicable under the surface on which employees are working, but in no case more than 30 feet below.
- When nets are used on bridges, the potential fall area must be unobstructed.
- Safety nets must extend outward from the outermost projection of the work surface as follows:

Vertical distance from working level to horizontal plane of net	Minimum required horizontal distance of outer edge of net from the edge of the working surface
Up to 5 feet	8 feet
5 to 10 feet	10 feet
More than 10 feet	13 feet

- Safety nets must be installed with sufficient clearance to prevent contact with the surface or structures under them when subjected to an impact force equal to the drop test described below.
- Safety nets and their installations must be capable of absorbing an impact force equal to the drop test described below.
- Safety nets and safety net installations must be drop-tested at the jobsite:
 - After initial installation and before being used.
 - Whenever relocated.
 - After major repair.
 - At 6-month intervals if left in one place.