APPLICATION

NYU Langone Health

PURPOSE

- To prevent employees and contractor personnel from falling off, onto, or through surfaces;
- To protect patients, staff, and the public from being struck by falling objects; and
- To comply with federal, state and local laws, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) fall protection standards (29 CFR 1910 subparts D and F and 1926 subpart M), New York State (NYS) Industrial Code Rule 23, and the New York City (NYC) and NYS Building Codes.

POLICY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1.0 Application

NYU Langone Health (NYULH) refers to the NYU Langone Health System, NYU Langone Hospitals, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, NYU Long Island School of Medicine, the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, and all entities controlled by them

This policy applies to:

- All indoor and outdoor areas of all NYULH owned and leased facilities
- All employees and contractor personnel of NYULH

The primary departments and divisions impacted by this program are:

- Environmental Services;
- Facilities Management, Facilities Operations, and Engineering (collectively Facilities);
- Real Estate; and
- Real Estate Development and Facilities (RED+F), Design and Construction.

2.0 Policy

2.1 Employees shall be protected against falls from heights greater than 4 feet at all times in accordance with OSHA 1910 subpart D and F and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359 standard.

2.2 Contractor personnel, including scaffold erectors and ironworkers, shall be protected against falls from heights greater than 6 feet at all times in accordance with OSHA 1926 subpart M only (not subparts L or R) and the ANSI Z359 standard.

2.3 Use of active fall protection systems shall be limited to situations where elimination and passive fall protection systems cannot provide adequate protection or are not feasible.

2.4 Personnel shall not use active fall protection systems without approval from Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

3.0 Definitions

Authorized person means an employee assigned by his/her employer to perform duties at a location where that employee will be exposed to a fall hazard. Authorized persons are responsible for inspecting their fall protection equipment prior to each use and for properly storing and maintaining it.

Competent person means an individual who, through training and knowledge, is capable of identifying, evaluating, and addressing existing and potential fall hazards, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective action with regard to such hazards. Competent persons are responsible for supervising the selection and use of structural anchorage and fall protection system components, conducting inspections of structural anchorage and all fall protection system components prior to each use, and immediately removing damaged equipment from service.

Fall protection hierarchy refers to the following order of fall prevention and protection methods:

- **Elimination** of the potential hazard (e.g., by pre-fabricating components and lifting them into place, or utilizing tools and equipment that avoid placing a worker at height).

- **Passive fall protection system** refers to systems that do not require the wearing or use of personal fall protection equipment (e.g., guardrail systems, engineered vertical fall protection systems, proper protection of floor openings, and use of engineered and tested horizontal personnel netting systems).

- **Active fall protection system** refers to systems that require authorized persons to wear or use fall protection equipment and attend fall protection training. They include fall or travel restraint systems or a personal fall arrest system, as defined below.

  - **Fall or travel restraint system** means a fall protection system requiring an authorized person to wear a body harness and a lanyard (secured to a proper anchorage point) short enough to prevent him/her from reaching a fall hazard.

  - **Personal fall arrest system** means a system used to arrest an authorized person's fall. It consists of an anchorage, connectors and a body harness, and may include a lanyard, deceleration device (e.g., rope grab or self-retracting lifeline), lifeline or combination of these.

Qualified person means a person with a recognized degree or professional certificate, and extensive knowledge, training and experience in fall protection and rescue. Qualified persons are responsible for supervising the design, installation, and inspection of fall protection equipment and non-structural anchorage products/devices.

4.0 Responsibilities

4.1 **Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)** is responsible for:

- Developing the Fall Prevention and Protection Program and collaborating with others to implement and maintain it;
- Providing RED+F senior leadership with information needed to support decisions about fall protection;
- Training RED+F managers and project managers on the requirements of the Program;
- Maintaining a list of consultants who can provide competent persons and qualified persons;
- Responding promptly to questions and concerns about fall protection; and

- Monitoring the effectiveness of the fall protection program and providing recommendations for improving it.

4.2 **Vice Presidents** and **Directors** are responsible for implementing the program within their departments and divisions. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, communicating the requirements of this policy to their employees and contractors.

4.3 **RED+F Program Directors** and **Project Executives** are responsible for working with the Project Managers (PMs) assigned to their projects to implement the Program.

4.4 **Managers** and **PMs (e.g., design, construction, renovation, operations, maintenance, and cable management)** are responsible for implementing and maintaining the program on their projects. The Managers' and PMs' responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Communicating the requirements of this policy to their employees and contractors;
- Assessing the need for fall protection during the design phase of new projects, and for day-to-day tasks. For anticipated work at heights, working with a competent person to review feasible fall prevention and protection options using the fall protection hierarchy, and developing specifications;
- Ensuring a competent person supervises the use of engineered horizontal or vertical fall protection systems and active fall protection systems;
- Coordinating pre-planning sessions with appropriate personnel, including a qualified person, at least one week in advance of any work that involves active fall protection systems; and
- Conducting routine inspections of their projects for proper use of fall protection and immediately following-up on identified issues.

4.5 **Contractors** whose personnel work at heights are responsible for:

- Ensuring workers tether their tools to prevent them from falling to a lower level;
- Reporting all incidents involving fall of persons or objects, regardless of severity, to NYULH's manager or PM and EH&S;
- Implementing fall protection in accordance with the fall protection hierarchy;

- Providing the proper equipment for working at heights and ensuring workers are trained to use it;
- Obtaining approval from NYULH for all active fall protection systems; and
- If NYULH approves an active fall protection system:
  - Providing a written site-specific fall protection program;
  - Identifying and providing evidence of training for the competent person and authorized persons who will be engaged in the work;
  - Providing a detailed plan for prompt rescue if a worker falls and remains suspended;
  - Scheduling a pre-planning meeting, at least 1 week in advance, with NYULH's PM and EH&S to ensure that all necessary equipment and protective measures are in place; and
  - If contractor's rescue plan relies solely on rescue by government agencies (e.g., FDNY or NYPD), formally notifying the agencies at least one week in advance and coordinating with them.

4.6 **Employees** who work at heights are responsible for:

- Tethering their tools to prevent them from falling to a lower level;
- Using all required fall protection;
- Inspecting active fall protection system components and anchorage they are authorized to use prior to each use; and
- Notifying their supervisors of any pertinent problems.

5.0 Requirements for passive fall protection systems

5.1 Vertical and horizontal fall protection systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions under the supervision of a qualified person. Horizontal personnel netting systems shall be drop-tested prior to use in accordance with the requirements in OSHA 1926.502.

5.2 Guardrail systems shall be constructed and installed in accordance with the requirements in OSHA 1926.502, and Chapter 33 of the NYC/NYS Building Code.

5.3 Openings in floors, roofs and other walking surfaces shall be covered with material capable of supporting twice the maximum anticipated load (e.g., of a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP)) on the floor. These covers shall be marked "hole" or "cover." Openings greater than 4 feet by 4 feet shall be protected with a proper guardrail system, not a cover.

5.4 Personnel shall not remove passive fall protection systems (e.g., guardrail, scaffold, MEWP, vertical protection system), or raise their work level above them, without notifying their competent person. Where the work requires this, the competent person shall assess the situation and determine what additional fall protection measures shall be implemented. Any passive fall protection equipment that is removed in order to complete work shall be properly replaced prior to leaving the work area.

6.0 Requirements for active fall protection systems

6.1 A controlled access zone shall be established below locations where active fall protection systems are employed, and where a potential for falling objects exists.

6.2 All fall restraint and personal fall arrest system components (e.g., body harness, lanyard, lifeline, declaration device, anchorage connector, non-structural anchorage point) shall be engineered and installed, inspected, used, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

6.3 All fall restraint and personal fall arrest system components shall be inspected daily prior to use by both the competent person and authorized person. Any damaged components shall be immediately removed from service.

6.4 Horizontal lifelines shall be designed, installed, and used under the supervision of a qualified person.

6.5 Where feasible, active fall protection system components (e.g., horizontal lifelines, anchor points) shall be installed on structural members prior to these members being installed.

6.6 Personal fall arrest systems shall be rigged in a manner which prevents a worker from free falling more than 6 feet and making contact with anything below his/her work surface. These systems shall also be equipped with an energy absorbing device which limits maximum arresting force to 900 pounds or less.

6.7 Each worker shall be secured to an independent lifeline (horizontal or vertical) unless the lifeline is specifically designed to support more than one person.

6.8 The anchorage for a personal fall arrest systems shall be independent of the anchorage for suspended platforms.

6.9 Knots shall not be tied in lifelines, lanyards, or other active fall protection system components.

6.10 Fall protection anchors installed in concrete and masonry shall be designed, and pull or drop tested by a qualified entity.

6.11 Chafing protection shall be used wherever fall restraint and personal fall arrest system components may come into contact with sharp edges.

6.12 Only shock absorbing lanyards shall be used. Lanyards shall be connected to the body harness D ring only. Lanyards shall not be tied back to themselves unless specifically designed for that purpose. Lanyards shall not be connected in series. Retractable lanyards shall be connected directly to the body harness D ring.

Related NYULH Safety Policies

120: Construction Safety Requirements
138: Confined Space Entry
163: Ladders, Scaffolds, and Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

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	NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island EOC Committee Family Health Centers at NYU Langone EOC Committee

Summary of Revisions

Revision date	Section	Changes
February 2021	Throughout	Changes NYU Winthrop to NYU Langone Health – Long Island
	2.2	Adds ANSI Standard
	Throughout	Minor changes to language
September 2019	Reviewed by	Adds NYU Winthrop review
	Application	Updates logo and organizational references
September 2017	2.0	Defines NYU Langone
	Reviewed by	Adds review by NYU Langone Hospital - Brooklyn Safety Officer, and EOC Committees of NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn, NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital and Family Health Centers at NYU Langone.