

# SAFETY Checklist

Completed By:

Location:

Date Completed:

## Walking and Working Surfaces: Rope Descent System (General Industry)

**Instructions:** This checklist is intended to help you identify potential hazards in your workplace. The questions are based on applicable Federal OSHA standards. Keep in mind that additional state and local regulations may apply, depending upon your location. Please select one answer for each question. You can click in the box if completing this form on your computer or mobile device. If you select “no,” you should investigate further to determine what corrective action may be needed to address the hazard. You can review the specific OSHA Standards outlined below at [www.osha.gov/law-regs.html](http://www.osha.gov/law-regs.html). Choose “General Industry.”

### 1910.21 Scope and Definitions

*Rope descent system* means a suspension system that allows an employee to descend in a controlled manner and, as needed, stop at any point during the descent. A rope descent system usually consists of a roof anchorage, support rope, a descent device, carabiner(s) or shackle(s), and a chair (seatboard). A rope descent system also is called controlled descent equipment or apparatus. Rope descent systems do not include industrial rope access systems.

	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
1	Before any rope descent system is used, has the building owner informed the employer, in writing that the building owner has identified, tested, certified, and maintained each anchorage so it is capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds in any direction, for each employee attached? NOTE: The information must be based on an annual inspection by a qualified person and certification of each anchorage by a qualified person, as necessary, and at least every 10 years.	1910.27(b)(1)(i)			
2	Has the employer ensured that no employee uses any anchorage before the employer has obtained written information from the building owner that each anchorage meets the requirements of this section? NOTE: The employer must keep the information for the duration of the job.	1910.27(b)(1)(ii)			
3	Is no rope descent system used for heights greater than 300 feet above grade unless the employer demonstrates that it is not feasible to access such heights by any other means or that those means pose a greater hazard than using a rope descent system?	1910.27(b)(2)(i)			

	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
4	Is the rope descent system used in accordance with instructions, warnings, and design limitations set by the manufacturer or under the direction of a qualified person?	1910.27(b)(2)(ii)			
5	Is each employee who uses the rope descent system trained in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.30?	1910.27(b)(iii)			
6	Is the rope descent system inspected at the start of each workshift that it is to be used? NOTE: The employer must ensure damaged or defective equipment is removed from service immediately and replaced.	1910.27(b)(iv)			
7	Does the rope descent system have proper rigging, including anchorages and tiebacks, with particular emphasis on providing tiebacks when counterweights, cornice hooks, or similar non-permanent anchorages are used?	1910.27(b)(v)			
8	Does each employee use a separate, independent personal fall arrest system that meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I?	1910.27(b)(vi)			
9	Are all components of each rope descent system, except seat boards, capable of sustaining a minimum rated load of 5,000 pounds? NOTE: Seat boards must be capable of supporting a live load of 300 pounds.	1910.27(b)(vii)			
10	Is prompt rescue of each employee provided in the event of a fall?	1910.27(b)(viii)			
11	Are the ropes of each rope descent system effectively padded or otherwise protected, where they can contact edges of the building, anchorage, obstructions, or other surfaces, to prevent them from being cut or weakened?	1910.27(b)(ix)			
12	Is stabilization provided at the specific work location when descents are greater than 130 feet?	1910.27(b)(x)			
13	Are employees prohibited from using a rope descent system when hazardous weather conditions, such as storms or gusty or excessive wind, are present?	1910.27(b)(xi)			
14	Is equipment, such as tools, squeegees, or buckets, secured by a tool lanyard or similar method to prevent it from falling?	1910.27(b)(xii)			

Questions		OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
15	Are the ropes of each rope descent system protected from exposure to open flames, hot work, corrosive chemicals, and other destructive conditions?	1910.27(b)(xiii)			

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