

New Protocols for Existing and New Concrete-Embedded Fall Arresting Systems

To ensure contractors protect their workers with reliable safety-harness systems to prevent falls, the Buildings Department is now mandating additional safety protocols for concrete-embedded Fall Arresting Systems. **These new protocols are required for all new and existing concrete-embedded Fall Arresting Systems.** These new mandates are in addition to all existing requirements from the manufacturer, the NYC Building Code and all other applicable laws and regulations. The new requirements below are effective immediately.

New Concrete-Embedded Systems

Effective immediately, contractors must now obtain shop drawings, approved by a licensed engineer, for all concrete-embedded Fall Arresting Systems prior to installation. These shop drawings must be available at the site at all times and must include:

- Manufacturer type and name;
- Instructions on proper installation and use;
- Adequacy of the concrete structure to sustain static and equivalent dynamic loads;
- List of occupational classifications allowed to use this system; and
- Instructions on testing and inspection procedures.

In addition, the site's construction superintendent is now responsible for the proper installation of each piece of the concrete-embedded Fall Arresting System. The construction superintendent, or a competent person working directly under his or her supervision, must inspect the Fall Arresting System prior to and during its installation. (The competent person working under the construction superintendent must have three years of experience in concrete placement inspections and must be trained by the manufacturer or its authorized representative.) Subsequent to these inspections, the construction superintendent must prepare and sign a statement of the inspection's success and keep this statement at the construction site at all times.

Existing Concrete-Embedded Systems

Effective immediately and prior to any further use of Fall Arresting Systems currently embedded in concrete, contractors must now obtain a licensed engineer's approval. This approval must certify that the existing concrete-embedded Fall Arresting System was field-tested by a qualified testing entity according to a protocol acceptable to the engineer and that the system meets the manufacturer's expectations. The engineer's certification must be available at the site at all times and must include:

- Manufacturer type and name;
- Instructions on proper installation and use;
- Adequacy of the concrete structure to sustain static and equivalent dynamic loads; and
- List of occupational classifications allowed to use the system.

Maintenance and Removal

Effective immediately, contractors must regularly inspect Fall Arresting Systems for damage and must have a maintenance log on-site at all times. Contractors must not permit anyone to use the concrete-embedded Fall Arresting System on their site prior to full compliance with the above. Once the system is no longer in use, the contractor is responsible for removing the system safely and properly.