



BUILDINGS 2026-002 BULLETIN O T C R

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PURPOSE: This document acknowledges that horizontal safety netting in elevator hoistways protects workers from fall injuries and provides considerations for the use of netting in elevator hoistways.

SUBJECT(S): Innovation Challenge, Site safety, Nets, Fall Protection, Elevator

RELATED CODE SECTION: BC 3301

I. INNOVATION CHALLENGE COMPETITION

In 2021, the NYC Department of Buildings launched the **Hack the Building Code Innovation Challenge** competition. The competition sought ideas for modernizing the construction process by improving buildings and keeping a safe work site and adjoining buildings. The Department's website provides a [list of the winning technologies](#).

One of the competition's winning technologies is a horizontal safety netting used in elevator hoistway openings. This Bulletin documents that the Department has no objection to the use of horizontal safety nettings installed in elevator hoistway openings and establishes installation considerations.

II. BACKGROUND

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates elevator hoistway fall protection. Installing horizontal safety netting at periodic vertical intervals protect workers from fall injuries.

III. DESCRIPTION

Horizontal safety netting systems includes netting material and anchorage points to the structure. Consult with manufacturers of horizontal safety netting systems for material specifications.

IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF HORIZONTAL SAFETY NETTING USED IN ELEVATOR HOISTWAY OPENINGS

Safety nets must be capable of resisting expected loading conditions and comply with all relevant OSHA regulations including requirements for installation, maintenance and removal of safety nets.

When anchorages are installed within the hoistway to secure the nets, they must be installed so they do not interfere with normal elevator operation.

Anchorage must be removed when elevator hoistway protection is no longer required.