

Safety Precautions and Requirements - Window Cleaners (Regulation 859 - OHSA)

8. Every person who engages in window cleaning shall be at least eighteen years of age. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 8.
9. (1) Every worker who engages in window cleaning shall wear or use personal protective clothing, equipment or devices that protect the worker from the particular hazard to which the worker may be exposed.
(2) Every worker shall be instructed and trained in the care and use of any protective clothing, equipment or device before the worker wears or uses it. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 9.
10. (1) If a worker who is not working from a ladder is exposed to the hazard of falling more than three metres, the worker shall use a fall arrest system that is adequately secured to a fixed support and arranged so that the worker cannot fall freely for a vertical distance of more than 1.5 metres.
(2) The fixed support mentioned in subsection (1) shall be able to resist all arrest forces when a worker falls.
(3) The fall arrest system mentioned in subsection (1),
 - (a) shall arrest any fall by the worker without applying a peak force to the worker greater than 8 kilonewtons; and
 - (b) shall permit the worker to remain suspended safely in it for a period of at least thirty minutes.
(4) Where a suspended scaffold,
 - (a) has at least two independent means of support or suspension; and
 - (b) is designed, constructed and maintained so that the failure of one means of support or suspension will not upset the scaffold, the fall arrest body harness or lanyard may be attached to the scaffold.
(5) A lanyard used in a fall arrest system shall have a nominal diameter of at least sixteen millimetres and be made of nylon rope or another durable and adequate material.
(6) A lifeline used in a fall arrest system,
 - (a) shall be used by only one worker at a time;
 - (b) shall be free from the danger of being chafed or cut;
 - (c) shall be suspended separately and independently from any suspended scaffold, boatswain's chair or similar single-point suspension equipment;
 - (d) shall have a nominal diameter of at least sixteen millimetres;
 - (e) shall be made of polypropylene or another durable material with equivalent impact strength that provides equal protection to a worker;
 - (f) when in a vertical position, shall extend to the ground or the level of egress;
 - (g) shall be inspected for wear prior to each day's use by a competent person who shall report any defects or damage to a supervisor; and

- (h) shall not be used when defective or damaged.
- (7) No lanyard, lifeline and fall arrest body harness that has arrested a fall by a worker shall be reused. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 10.
- 11. Every work area, route to and from a work area and a working platform shall be treated with sand or similar material when necessary to ensure a firm footing. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 11.
- 12. If practicable, signs containing the words "Danger — Work Overhead" in legible letters shall be posted in prominent locations and in sufficient number to warn pedestrians that window cleaning is being carried out overhead. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 12.
- 13. Barriers, warning signs or other safeguards for the protection of workers shall be used where vehicular or pedestrian traffic may endanger the safety of any worker or disturb the worker's support lines or lifeline. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 13.
- 14. (1) Access to and egress from a workplace that is above ground level shall be by stairs, runway, ramp or ladder.

(2) Despite subsection (1), access to and egress from a suspended scaffold, boatswain's chair or similar single-point suspension equipment may be,
 - (a) directly from a floor or roof where the suspended scaffold, boatswain's chair or similar single-point suspension equipment is adjacent to the floor or roof; or
 - (b) from ground level where the suspended scaffold, boatswain's chair or single-point suspension equipment is at ground level. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 14.
- 15. Every container for a combustible, corrosive or toxic substance,
 - (a) shall be suitable for the substance that the container holds; and
 - (b) shall be clearly labelled to identify,
 - (i) the substance it contains,
 - (ii) the hazards that are involved in the use of the substance, and
 - (iii) the precautions to be taken in handling, using, storing and disposing of the substance. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 15.
- 16. Materials to be used on, or removed from, a work site shall be stored, moved, lifted and transported in a manner that does not endanger a worker. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 859, s. 16.