

Window-washing regulations:

Clear answers to frequently asked questions

Q. If there are permanently dedicated systems that also include anchorages on the building, what standard applies to window washing?

A. Window washing is covered by 1910.66 when there are permanently dedicated systems on the buildings.

Q. Who may perform the certification for anchorages that meet the requirements of 1910.66 App. C (c) (10)?

A. Paragraph 1910.66 App. C, (I) (c) (10), states:
Anchorages to which personal fall arrest equipment is attached shall be capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per employee attached, or shall be designed, installed and used as part of a complete personal fall arrest system which maintains a safety factor of at least two, under the supervision of a qualified person. A qualified person under 1910.66 App. C means one with a recognized degree or professional certificate and extensive knowledge and experience in the subject field who is capable of design, analysis, evaluation and specifications in the subject work, project or product.

Q. After an anchorage is identified and certified and meets the requirements of 1910.66 App. C (c) (10), does the anchorage need to be identified and certified annually?

A. 1910.66 (g) (2) (i) states related building supporting structures shall undergo periodic inspections by a competent person not to exceed 12 months.

Q. If a construction company built a facility and had anchorages installed that were capable of supporting 5,000 pounds and the building owner has a certificate that verifies it, do they still need to be identified and certified by a qualified individual?

A. 1910.66 states that the building owner is responsible for assuring the employer that his building and equipment conform to specified requirements of the 1910.66 standard. Certification attests to total compliance with provisions of 1910.66(e), (f), (g) and (h). This provision requires certification that the installation meets the critical design criteria and that it is designed and installed under the supervisor of a registered engineer (e)(1)(i) and (f)(1)(i).



Window-washing regulations continues ...

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- Q.** Do parapet walls, air handling units and other similar items that are not originally designed as anchorages but are sometimes used *as* anchorages need to be certified under Minnesota Rules 5205.0730?
- A.** Yes, according to Minnesota Rules 5205.0730, subp. 5, a qualified individual shall determine that there are identified and certified anchorages for independent safety lines; tiebacks for outriggers, parapet clamps and cornice hooks; and for powered and manual boatswains' chairs; rope descent systems; and lifelines.
- Q.** Who may perform the certification for anchorages that meet the requirements of Minnesota Rules 5205.0730, subp. 5?
- A.** As stated in 5205.0730, subp. 5, qualified individual shall determine that there are identified and certified anchorages. A qualified individual means an individual who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate or professional standing, and who by extensive knowledge, training and experience has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the equipment and systems pertaining to the work or project, and the development of plans for the work or project.
- Q.** Under Minnesota Rules 5205.0730, subp. 4, a competent person is required to perform inspections on all related building supporting structures and equipment. Is this required on an annual basis?
- A.** Minnesota Rules 5205.0730, subp. 4, states prior to using any equipment, the building exterior shall be visually inspected by a competent person. The rule does not limit this visual inspection to annually.
- Q.** Do I need to maintain training records on my current employees if I haven't hired any new employees since March 1, 2012, when Minnesota Rules 5205.0730 for window cleaning and building maintenance took effect?
- A.** Minnesota Rules 5205.0730, subp. 8, states that the employer shall provide training for each employee who uses personal fall-protection equipment. This became effective March 1, 2012. Therefore, in accordance with 5205.0730, subp. 8 (G), an employer shall maintain training records, which shall include:
1. the dates training was conducted;
 2. the name, title and qualifications of the person who conducted the training;
 3. the names and job titles of the employees who completed the training; and
 4. a brief summary or outline of the information that was included in the training.

More information

Questions about the window cleaning and building maintenance regulations – or other safety and health concerns – can be directed to Minnesota OSHA at osha.compliance@state.mn.us or (651) 284-5050.