

ANSI/ASSP A10.18-2023

Safety Requirements for Temporary Roof and Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways, and Other Unprotected Edges in Construction and Demolition Operations



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



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ANSI/ASSP A10.18 – 2023

**American National Standard
Construction and Demolition Operations**

**Safety Requirements for Temporary Roof and Floor Holes,
Wall Openings, Stairways, and Other Unprotected Edges in
Construction and Demolition Operations**

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Professionals
520 N. Northwest Highway
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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard A10.18-2023.)

This standard is one of a series of safety standards that have been formulated by the Accredited Standards Committee on Safety in Construction and Demolition Operations, A10. It is expected that the standards in the A10 series will find a major application in industry, serving as a guide to contractors, labor and equipment manufacturers. For the convenience of users, a list of existing and proposed standards and technical materials in the A10 series for Safety Requirements in Construction and Demolition Operations follows.

- A10.0 The Construction and Demolition Compendium of Standards
- A10.1 Pre-Project & Pre-Task Safety & Health Planning
- A10.2 Safety, Health and Environmental Training (under development)
- A10.3 Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems
- A10.4 Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators
- A10.5 Material Hoists
- A10.6 Demolition Operations
- A10.7 Use, Storage, Handling and Site Movement of Commercial Explosives and Blasting Agents
- A10.8 Scaffolding
- A10.9 Concrete and Masonry Construction
- A10.11 Personnel Nets
- A10.12 Excavation
- A10.13 Steel Erection
- A10.15 Dredging
- A10.16 Tunnels, Shafts and Caissons
- A10.18 Temporary Roof and Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways and Other Unprotected Edges
- A10.19 Pile Installation and Extraction Operations
- A10.21 Safe Construction and Demolition of Wind Generation/Turbine Facilities
- A10.22 Rope-Guided and Non-Guided Workers' Hoists
- A10.23 Safety Requirements for the Installation of Drilled Shafts
- A10.24 Roofing – Safety Requirements for Low-Sloped Roofs
- A10.25 Sanitation in Construction
- A10.26 Emergency Procedures for Construction Sites
- A10.28 Work Platforms Suspended from Cranes or Derricks
- A10.30 Installation of Anchors and Micropiles
- A10.31 Digger-Derricks
- A10.32 Fall Protection Systems Used in Construction and Demolition Operations
- A10.33 Safety and Health Program Requirements for Multi-Employer Projects
- A10.34 Public Protection
- A10.35 Pressure Testing of Steel and Copper Piping Systems
- A10.37 Debris Nets
- A10.38 Basic Elements of a Program to Provide a Safe and Healthful Work Environment
- A10.39 Construction Safety and Health Audit Program
- A10.40 Reduction of Musculoskeletal Problems in Construction
- A10.42 Rigging Qualifications and Responsibilities in the Construction Industry
- A10.43 Confined Spaces in Construction and Demolition Operations
- A10.44 Lockout/Tagout in Construction
- A10.46 Hearing Loss Prevention
- A10.47 Highway Construction Safety
- A10.48 Communication Structures
- A10.49 Control of Health Hazards
- A10.50 Heat Stress Management in Construction and Demolition Operations (under development)
- A10.100 Prevention through Design in Construction
- A10.101 Drones in Construction (under development)
- A10.103 Lagging and Leading Indicators Used in Construction (under development)
- A10.104 Pandemics and Infectious Diseases on Construction and Demolition Sites (under development)

One purpose of these standards is to serve as guides to governmental authorities having jurisdiction over subjects within the scope of the A10 Committee standards. If these standards are adopted for governmental use, the reference of other national codes or standards in individual volumes may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations.

Normative Requirements

This standard uses the single column format common to many international standards. The normative requirements appear aligned to the left margin. To meet the requirements of this standard, machinery, equipment and process suppliers and users must conform to these normative requirements. These requirements typically use the verb “shall.”

NOTE: The informative or explanatory notes in this standard appear indented, in italics, in a reduced font size, which is an effort to provide a visual signal to the reader that this is informative note, not normative text, and is not to be considered part of the requirements of this standard; this text is advisory in nature only. The suppliers and users are not required to conform to the informative note. The informative note is presented in this manner in an attempt to enhance readability and to provide explanation or guidance to the sections they follow.

Revisions: The A10 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made to the standard periodically (usually five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant section number(s), the proposed wording and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the A10 Committee to process the changes in a more-timely manner.

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**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD A10.18
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY ROOF AND FLOOR HOLES,
WALL OPENINGS, STAIRWAYS, AND OTHER UNPROTECTED EDGES IN
CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION OPERATIONS**

1. General

1.1 Scope

This standard prescribes rules and establishes minimum safety requirements for the protection of employees and invitees from hazards arising out of or associated with temporary roof and floor holes, wall openings, stairways, and other unprotected sides and edges, roofs, during construction and demolition activities. This standard applies only to those instances when the leading-edge work is inactive and is not currently under construction and is, therefore, considered an unprotected side and edge.

1.1.1 This standard does not apply to scaffolds or scaffold stairs used as temporary access (see ANSI/ASSP A10.8, *Scaffolding Safety Requirements*).

1.1.2 This standard does not apply to trenches and trench covers (see ANSI/ASSP A10.12, *Safety Requirements of Excavation*).

1.1.3 This standard does not apply to steel erection (see ANSI/ASSP A10.13, *Safety Requirements for Steel Erection*).

1.1.4 This standard does not apply to roofing work on low-sloped roofs (see ANSI/ASSP A10.24, *Roofing – Safety Requirements for Low-Sloped Roofs*, for membrane roofing operations on low-sloped roofs).

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to establish reasonable and practical safety requirements to protect employees and invitees from falls through temporary roof and floor holes, wall openings, stairways, inactive leading edges, and other unprotected edges.

1.3 Requirements for Fall Protection

This standard requires the guarding of unprotected roof and floor holes, wall openings and other unprotected sides or edges or the use of safety nets or personal fall arrest and/or fall restraint systems when guardrail systems are not in place. The purpose is to provide guidance for protecting workers from falls.

1.4 Responsibility for Fall Protection

Openings, open edges, and holes shall be reported to the controlling contractor, or the contractually assigned competent person prior to creation, to confirm adequacy of the guarding or covers that are to be installed while the opening exists, the strength required, and the signage required. The controlling contractor is responsible for assuring that any contractor that creates a hole or opening on the site shall install guard rails, covers, and use appropriate fall protection.

Responsibility of each creating contractor is to plan guards and covers prior to the creation of openings, open edges, and holes. Guards and covers shall be installed immediately following the creation of the opening/hazard.