



SAFETY BULLETIN



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000014**

Issued March 7th, 2022 by **Matt Hartling and Ron Buchanan, OHS Officers**

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Guardrails

Legal information

Issued pursuant to section 21.5(3) of the Nova Scotia *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*.

Summary

Pursuant to subsection 21.5(3) of the Nova Scotia *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*, guardrails are required where “there is a risk of falling at a doorway or the opening of a building floor, roof, walls or shaft.”

Bump/warning lines are not an accepted means of fall protection and guardrails must be installed on each working level of a project, as work progresses, if there is a risk of falling at a doorway or the opening of a building floor, roof, walls or shaft.

As per CSA Z797, “Code of Practice for Access Scaffolds”, a temporary guardrail may be removed should it not be reasonable to have it in place for short term, or if it interferes with necessary work such as installation of walls, windows etc. It must be reinstalled once that work is completed should there continue to be a risk of falling 3 metres or more to the next safe level or any level above an unsafe surface. While a temporary guardrail can be removed in those circumstances, another means of fall protection must be used.

What does this mean to employees and employers?

- Guardrails must be designed and installed in compliance with the latest version of CSA standard CSA Z797, “Code of Practice for Access Scaffolds” as required in subsection 21.5(3) of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.
- Verification and enforcement of this requirement is increasing and employers and employees both have a shared responsibility.

Contact for more information:

Safety Branch, Labour, Skills and Immigration

1-800-9LABOUR (1-800-952-2687)

safetybranch@novascotia.ca