

Other Working Surfaces -- OSHA Standard 1910.30¹

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The Impact of Safety on Florida Agriculture

Florida agriculture, including forestry and fishing, made an annual economic impact of \$53 billion in 1998. More than 81,000 people work on the 40,000 farms in the state, and more than 50,000 are employed in other activities related to agriculture. The state's agricultural enterprises range from large citrus, vegetable and cattle operations to small family-operated farms.

From 1989 to 1998, there were approximately 240 deaths related to agriculture in Florida, according to data compiled by the Deep-South Agricultural Health and Safety Center. In addition, agriculture has one of the highest injury and death rates among U.S. industries.

Safety in Florida agriculture is challenging because:

- the state's agricultural enterprises are diverse,
- safety knowledge among workers varies,

- manual labor is used extensively,
- the climate creates year-round heat stress.

Therefore, it is vital to assist the public in learning about OSHA documents related to agriculture. More related information is available at the following Web sites:

Florida AgSafe: <<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>>

OSHA Regulations:
<<http://www.osha.gov/comp-links.html>>

Overview

This document, a condensation of Section 1910.30 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 CFR), is not intended to be totally inclusive but rather to highlight the information and requirements in the complete OSHA standard that owners and managers of agricultural businesses should understand. Refer to the OSHA Web site given above for the complete standard and for court interpretations of the standard.

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Contents of OSHA Standard 1910.30

- Section 1910.30(a) -- Dockboards (Bridge Plates)
- Section 1910.30(b) -- Forging Machine Area
- Section 1910.30(c) -- Veneer Machinery

NOTE: Some sections of OSHA standards are labeled "Reserved." This label implies either that information has been deleted from the previous version of the standard or that additions to the standard are anticipated. Because standards often reference other standards, it is important that paragraph numbers remain consistent.

Section 1910.30(a) -- Dockboards (Bridge Plates)

1910.30(a)(1) -- Portable and powered dockboards shall be strong enough to carry the load imposed on them.

1910.30(a)(2) -- Portable dockboards shall be secured in position, either by being anchored or equipped with devices which will prevent their slipping.

1910.30(a)(3) -- Powered dockboards shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Commercial Standard CS202-56 (1961) "Industrial Lifts and Hinged Loading Ramps" published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is incorporated by reference as specified in Sec. 1910.6.

1910.30(a)(4) -- Handholds, or other effective means, shall be provided on portable dockboards to permit safe handling.

1910.30(a)(5) -- Positive protection shall be provided to prevent railroad cars from being moved while dockboards or bridge plates are in position.

Section 1910.30(b) -- Forging Machine Area

1910.30(b)(1) -- Machines shall be so located as to give,

(i) -- enough clearance between machines so that the movement of one operator will not interfere with the work of another,

(ii) -- ample room for cleaning machines and handling the work, including material and scrap. The arrangement of machines shall be such that operators will not stand in aisles.

1910.30(b)(2) -- Aisles shall be provided of sufficient width to permit the free movement of employees bringing and removing material. This aisle space is to be independent of working and storage space.

1910.30(b)(3) -- Wood platforms used on the floor in front of machines shall be substantially constructed.

Section 1910.30(c) -- Veneer Machinery

1910.30(c)(1) -- Sides of steam vats shall extend to a height of not less than 36 inches above the floor, working platform, or ground.

1910.30(c)(2) -- Large steam vats divided into sections shall be provided with substantial walkways between sections. Each walkway shall be provided with a standard handrail on each exposed side. These handrails may be removable, if necessary.

1910.30(c)(3) -- Covers shall be removed only from that portion of steaming vats on which men are working and a portable railing shall be placed at this point to protect the operators.

1910.30(c)(4) -- Workmen shall not ride or step on logs in steam vats.