

# Leading and Sharp Edges

## What you need to know

Sharp edges are found in many leading edge applications where the edge is able to cut or damage a traditional lifeline user contact.



Do you know how sharp your edges are?

## Understanding leading and sharp edges



The smaller the edge radius, the sharper the edge. Edge radius varies between pieces of steel and concrete.

### Leading edge:

Imagine a worker, anchored at foot-level behind him, installing steel decking on a new building. As he moves away from the anchor point, he is exposed to a potential fall over the edge of the building.



### Sharp edge:

A sharp edge is one that, for practical purposes, is not rounded and has the potential to cut most types of lifelines.



## 4 Unique risks of leading and sharp edges:

<h3>1 Increased fall distance</h3> <p>Anchoring at foot-level increases the distance needed for fall clearance.</p>	<h3>2 Lock-up speed</h3> <p>Required time to reach velocity to engage lifeline takes longer because of longer fall distance.</p> <p>4.5 ft. per second</p>
<h3>3 Increased fall arrest forces</h3> <p>Potentially higher impact to the body when the fall is arrested.</p>	<h3>4 Increased potential for swing hazards</h3> <p>This could create a sawing action on a lifeline strong taught over a sharp edge.</p>

## New standards call for different equipment

Through their testing and analysis, ANSI confirmed a number of assumptions, including the fact that products not specifically designed for foot-level tie-off (the type of anchoring most often used in these applications) will generate forces far exceeding accepted safety parameters in the event of a fall.

Z359.14



Is your current equipment up to the task?

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