

BARRY PUBLICATION

Fall Risk Elimination Form

Eliminating the risks of falling: the first step to working at heights

<http://www.barry.ca/fall-protection-equipment/eliminating-the-risk-of-falling.htm>

Designing-out Falls

The first step before any work at heights

Serious risks are involved when using fall protection equipment. The current technology doesn't provide 100% protection against serious injuries or death. Based on the lack of training, planning, and difficulty of supervising work at heights, we should be looking toward minimizing the use of fall protection equipment. Learn about some alternative solutions before resorting to using a fall protection harness.

We have had the privilege of working with many clients on finding ways in which they can reduce the risk of falls. Over the last three years, we have noticed that even though fall protection systems are still being installed, three times as many have been removed based on our recommendations - more than 80% of our workshops resulted in the organization using an approach that did not require a fall protection system.

We work with our clients to guide them toward a better solution that has the lowest possible risk factor, while respecting health and safety regulations. (Health and Safety Laws of Quebec, Article 2, Article 49, Article 51).

Before beginning any work at heights, those in charge must ask themselves:

“Can we eliminate the risk of falling, WITHOUT using a fall arrest system?”

While we don't always have the opportunity to eliminate risk, we should nonetheless always ask ourselves the following questions:

- Does this work need to be done at heights, or can it be done on a low-risk surface?
- Can we use guardrails or a vertical net?
- Can we use restraining systems?
- Can we use a collective protection system, such as a net?
- Can we use a fall arrest system as a last resort?
- Can we use other safety measures that offer an equivalent level of safety?

Our Fall Risk Elimination Form is on the next page. It's a useful checklist to help with the decision-making process at the planning stage in order to eliminate the inherent risks of working at heights. This document will help you to reduce the risks and comply with the health and safety rules and regulations.

Barry Cordage offers consulting and technical support services to help businesses interested in eliminating fall risks at the source.

Fall Risk Elimination Form

Question 1 :	Does the work have to be done at heights, or can it be accomplished from the ground or on a low risk surface?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why :	_____					

[Go to Question 2]

Question 2 :	Can we use scaffolding, guard rails, working elevating platform or vertical net?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why :	_____					

[Go to Question 3]

Question 3 :	Can we use fall prevention restraining systems?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why :	_____					

[Go to Question 4]

Question 4 :	Can we use a collective fall protection system, such as safety netting?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why :	_____					

[Go to Question 5]

Question 5 :	Can we use a Fall Arrest System in full compliance with the best practices, company's rules and all applicable regulations?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why :	_____					

[Go to Question 6]

Question 6 :	Can we use other means that offer an equivalent level of safety as Question 5 without respecting the applicable regulations?						
	Approximate cost	_____					
	Level of safety	_____					
	Sustainability	_____					
	YES – How?	Round 1 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 2 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Round 3 :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO – Why not?		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	How / Why?	_____					
	Go to Q1	_____					

Cost assessments include:

- Engineering, manufacturing, construction
- Staff, equipment, and collective equipment
- Inspection and maintenance costs for the next 10 years
- Training, etc.

Levels of safety:

1. = extremely safe
2. = safe
3. = somewhat safe
4. = unsafe
5. = extremely unsafe

Sustainability classification:

1 to 10 adapted specifically to the working zone

This is an open-ended question

Barry Cordage Ltd offers its clients many services such as training, consultation, testing and auditing services in order to better understand and apply the current standards.

All standards as well as specific company policies must be taken into consideration at both the planning stage and while working at heights.

Laws and applicable standards for the province of Quebec:

- Law on Health and Security at Work
- Law on Engineers
- Regulation on Health and Safety at Work
- Security Code for Construction Work, article 2.10.12
- CSA Z259 Standards

Consult the following web site pages for more information:

www.barry.ca/fall-protection-equipment/fall-protection-equipment.htm

www.barry.ca/fall-protection-training/fall-protection-training.htm

www.barry.ca/high-angle-rescue/high-angle-rescue-equipment.htm

www.barry.ca/center-excellence/publication-en.htm

www.barry.ca/contact/marc-andre-pilon-en.htm



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www.barry.ca/ropes-nets.htm

References:

www.barry.ca/center-excellence/the-barry-centre-of-excellence.htm