



SESAC PROCEDURE FOR CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF OPENINGS

During the course of steel erection, it is standard practice to deck over all roof and floor frames leaving the deck positively attached to structural steel where future openings are to exist. In the event that SESAC is required to remove any metal deck allowing for a fall hazard to become imminent, the following guidelines are to be used:

Step 1: Perform the deck removal in a safe and careful manner.

Step 2: When the deck has been removed, a competent worker knowledgeable in floor/roof opening hazards is to remain “on guard” at the open hole until proper, permanent protection has been installed in the area of the opening.

Note: According to OSHA Subpart M – Fall Protection, the following definitions are used to classify the type of floor or roof hazard:

Hole means a gap or void 2 inches (5.1 cm) or more in its least dimension, in a floor, roof, or other walking/working surface.

Opening means a gap or voids 30 inches (76 cm) or more high and 18 inches (48 cm) or more wide, in a wall or partition, through which employees can fall to a lower level.

Decking hole means a gap or void more than 2 inches (5.1 cm) in its least dimension and less than 12 inches (30.5 cm) in its greatest dimension in a floor, roof or other walking/working surface. Pre-engineered holes in cellular decking (for wires, cables, etc.) are not included in this definition.

Step 3: Install proper protection according to the dimensions of the opening as follows:

- **Holes** with dimensions > 4' in the largest direction or to be protected using a positively fastened cover such as plywood or steel plate clearly marked “HOLE” or “COVER” to provide warning of the potential hazard. Under no circumstance is an employee to

remove the cover for any reason during or after hours of construction.

- **Openings** greater than 4' x 4' are to be protected in one of two ways.
 1. Installation of 2 line perimeter safety cable with welded stanchions for support. Cable is to be tensioned so that it is capable of withstanding without failure, twice the weight of employees equipment and materials that may be utilized on the covering. Brightly colored tape is to be tied on both the top and bottom cables on all four sides of the opening to provide for better cable visibility.
 2. Openings may also be protected using infill bracing such as planks or channels positively fastened to existing steel and a plywood or equal substitute capable of providing full coverage of the opening. The plywood covering is to be capable of support the equivalent load that the metal deck is to withstand. All solid coverings are to be brightly and clearly marked as "HOLE" or "COVER" to provide warning of the hazard.

Step 4: The superintendent in charge of safety on the project will notify workers of holes and openings after proper protection has been installed for awareness of a potential hazard.