



**Industrial Safety Gates** by Benko Products, Inc.

## **OSHA REGULATIONS**

OSHA regulation 1910.23 for Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes requires that on platforms four feet (4') or higher, a barrier be in place to guard every open sided floor and that the barrier be in place when the opening is not in use for handling materials.

A toe board (or equivalent) should be provided when there is exposure below to falling materials.

A standard railing consists of a top rail 42" off of the deck and intermediate rail must withstand a 200 lb force applied in any direction except upward.

Only a dual-barrier system ensures compliance with OSHA because a dual-barrier system will always have a barrier in place. A dual-gate (barrier) system does not depend on an operator to remember and make an effort to close the barrier.

Single-barrier systems that meet OSHA specifications only meet OSHA when the barriers are closed. Barriers held open by a staged pallet (as is the case with a swinging gate) are in violation of OSHA.

## **ANSI STANDARDS**

ANSI MH 28.3-2009 in section 6.4.3 requires a barrier to be in place to secure pallet drop areas at all times- even while the area is in use for handling materials. Single barrier systems such as swing, sliding or lift-out gates do not meet the standard.

Only a dual-gate system meets ANSI because a barrier is in place even during the active loading/unloading of material.

Swinging gates, sliding gates, chains, removable railing and netting do not meet ANSI standard.

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