

The Most Dangerous Falls in Your Loading Bays Are Happening at Low Heights

Loading bays combine height exposure, moving vehicles, and human error — making them one of the highest-risk zones in any workplace.



Loading bays are often not classified as working at height environments. However, workers are frequently exposed to fall risks between 1 to 1.5 meters — stepping between docks and vehicles, climbing onto truck beds, or working near open edges.



Dynamic Movement

Vehicles can shift, roll, or depart unexpectedly — even small movement creates gaps



No Fixed Protection

Dock edges are often left open to maintain operational flexibility



Human-Dependent Controls

Familiar environment, repetitive tasks, complacency and time pressure can lead to human errors

Activities Where Fall Actually Happens

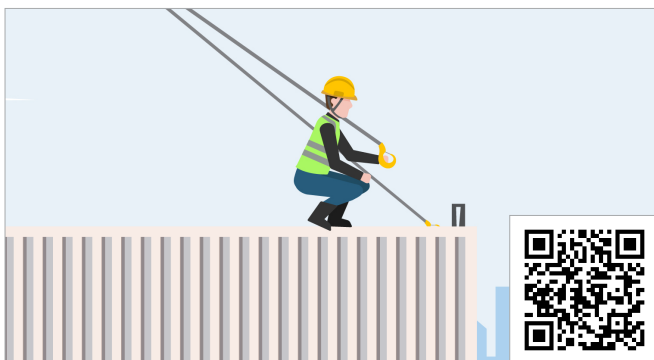
Slip and trips often happen when surface is uneven, slippery or struck by objects when standing on the vehicles. Some high risk activities performed on top of vehicles include:



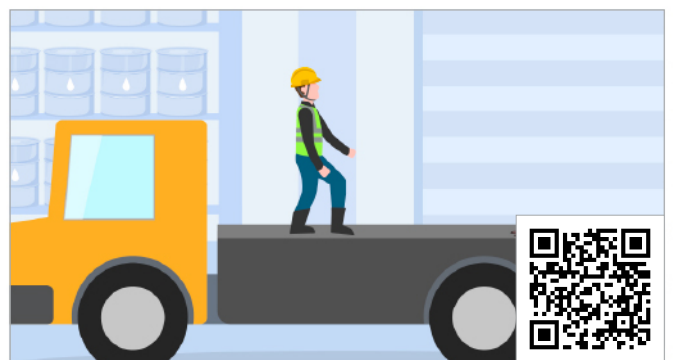
Inspection on tanker



Placing/removing tarp from trucks



Installing crane hooks on container trailers



Standing/walking on flatbed trucks

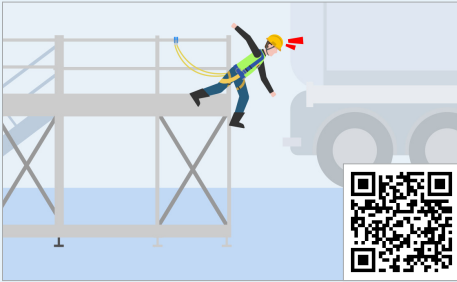
Low Height ≠ Low Risk

Working on vehicles in loading bays are typically considered low height but this does not mean it should be neglected.

77%

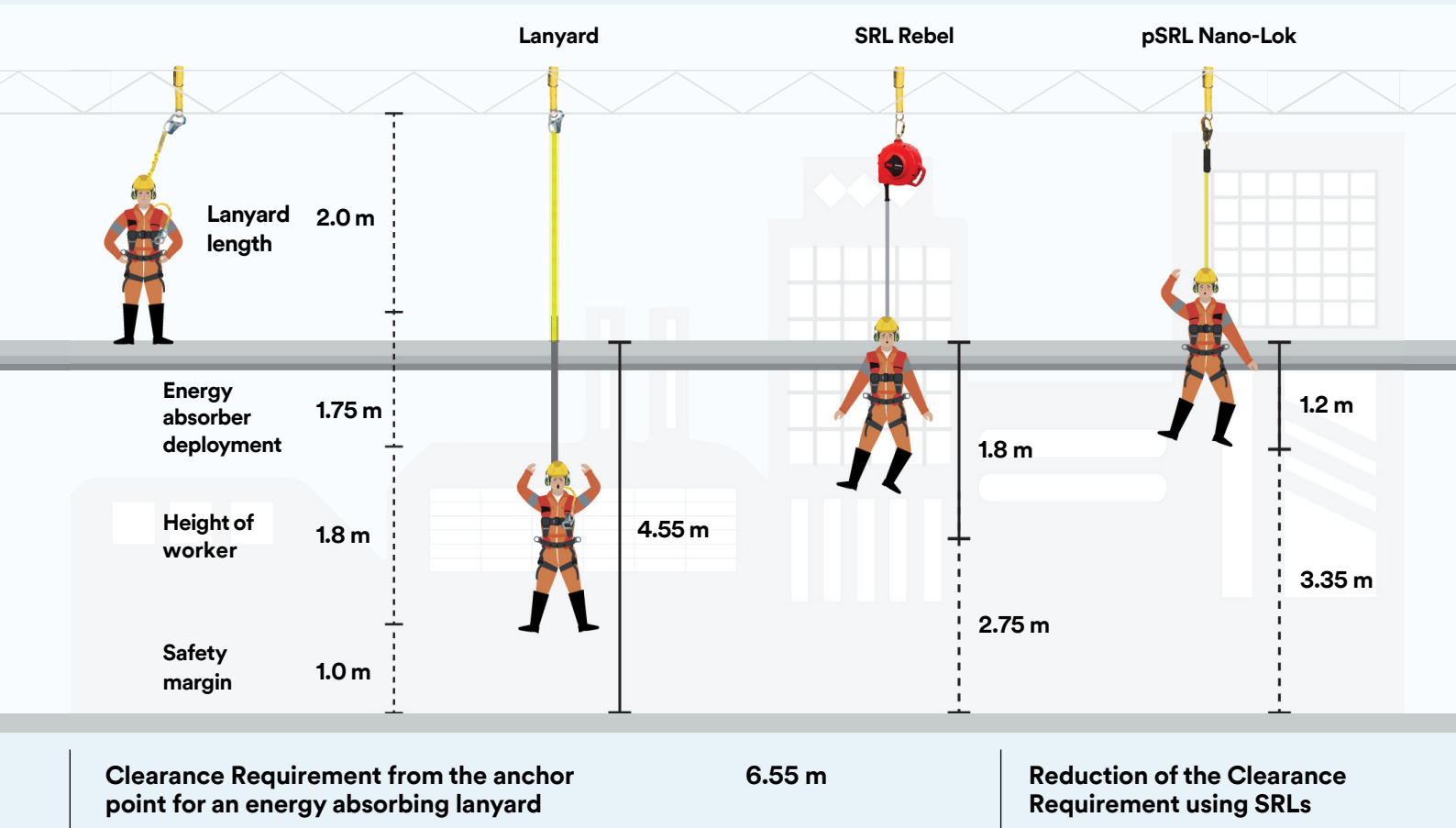
of fatalities from falls occur at “low heights” – where a lanyard may not be an effective solution¹

Sources: 1. Fatal occupational injuries incurred by workers in the construction industry due to falls to a lower level, 2011-2015. Bureau of Labor Statistics Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF). Accessed April 2022



Is using just a body harness and lanyard sufficient?

Click to watch what happens when a fall occurs with insufficient fall clearance (low height)



AU



NZ

CONTACT US

To help you find ways to mitigate fall hazards in your loading bay



LEARN MORE

Are your guardrails sufficient? What fall protection systems are available for loading bays?



EXPLORE MORE

How to select the right fall protection system for loading bays and supplier responsibilities?



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