

Are Your Temporary Guardrails Safe? Fall Protection Temporary Guardrails

Can you guarantee your workers that the temporary guardrails are safe? Did the guardrail installer drive 2 nails or 20 nails in each single 2X4 upright, is 2 or 20 nails adequate, did they use the correct lumber? **These are all questions you should be asking.** There simply is no substitute for providing guardrails in accordance with OSHA requirements and using standard, laboratory-tested bases for the guardrail stanchions. The way to be sure that temporary guardrails will do their job when needed and comply with OSHA standards is to use commercially available, laboratory-tested guardrail stanchion bases.



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Tech Series Suggestion

Keep a copy of the engineering laboratory test record in case the OSHA compliance officer comes knocking. A reputable supplier of guardrail stanchion bases will be happy to supply customers with a certified engineering laboratory test report to verify that the base meets OSHA minimums.

But are job-made guardrails actually safe? They certainly can be. The primary critical design feature is the base of the stanchions. OSHA's standard for the engineering of standard guardrails is that the guardrail must withstand a 200-pound force applied to the top of the rail in any direction. This is a tall order. The most important direction, of course, is the horizontal one, the direction that arrests the fall of a worker who would otherwise go over the edge. Ironically, this horizontal 200-pound force places a much greater force on the base of the stanchion, as the diagram in Figure 1 illustrates. Product resource: safetyboot.com

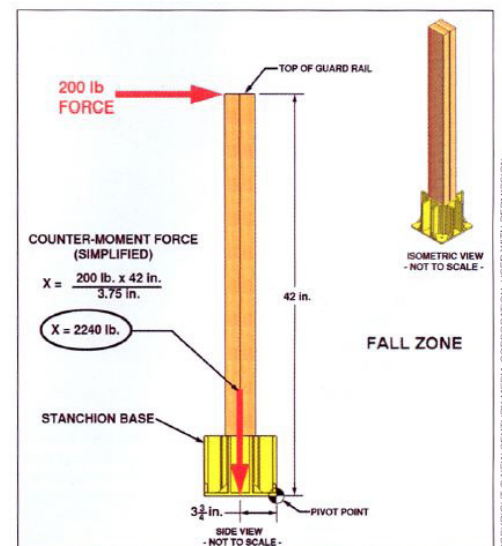


Figure 1