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**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 4:26 PM  
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**Subject:** Interpretation of CAL OSHA fixed ladder requirement.

Hello Nancy,  
Thank you for taking my call a few days ago. As discussed and per your request, please find attached below my question:

We're trying to understand the maximum height we can go on a fixed ladder on several buildings in an industrial setting using a fall arrest system and not a cage before needing a landing.

These first two statements below are confusing in that one (a) says you can go to 30'-0" if you have a fall arrest system and the second statement (b) reads as though you must have a cage and not a ladder safety system to go to 30'-0" before a landing. These projects are in the state of California near the city of Chino.

(j) Landing Platforms.

(1) When ladders are used to ascend to heights exceeding 20 feet, landing platforms shall be provided as follows:

- (A) Where no cage, well, or ladder safety system is provided, landing platforms shall be provided for each 20 feet of height or fraction thereof.
- (B) Where a cage or well is provided and no ladder safety system is provided, landing platforms shall be provided for each 30 feet of height or fraction thereof.
- (C) Each ladder section shall be offset from adjacent ladder sections at each landing.
- (D) Where installation conditions (even for a short, unbroken length) require that adjacent sections be offset, landing platforms shall be provided at each offset [See Subsection (m)].

Exceptions to subsection (j)(1):

1. Ladders used primarily in construction operations, fire escape ladders, and ladders equipped with treads.
2. Ladders on high-voltage transmission towers, chimneys, smoke stack ladders, water tower ladders and similar fixed ladders on permanent installations which are used either infrequently or for emergency only, provided the employee who uses the ladder is supplied with and wears approved personal fall protection equipment, which can be utilized if a rest period is required.
3. Ladders in underground mines as covered by the Mine Safety Orders.

Thank you again, and please feel free to call me if you have any questions, my contact information is listed below.

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