

SAFETY MATTERS CONSTRUCTION SERIES



Safety Net Systems – Drop Testing

Safety nets and safety net installations must be drop-tested at the jobsite:

- After initial installation and before being used.
- Whenever relocated.
- After major repair.
- At 6-month intervals if left in one place.



Provisions for Drop Testing

- The drop test consists of a 400 pound bag of sand 28-32 inches in diameter dropped into the net from the highest surface at which employees are exposed to fall hazards, but not from less than 42 inches above that level.
- Safety nets must be installed with sufficient clearance to prevent contact with the surface or structures under them when subjected to an impact force equal to the drop test.
- Safety nets and their installations must be capable of absorbing an impact force equal to the drop test.
- When the employer can demonstrate that it is unreasonable to perform the drop-test described above, the employer or a designated competent person shall certify that the net and net installation have sufficient clearance and impact absorption by preparing a certification record prior to the net being used as a fall protection system. The certification must include:
 - Identification of the net and net installation.
 - Date that it was determined the net and net installation were in compliance.
 - Signature of the person making the determination and certification.
- Defective nets shall not be used, and defective components must be removed from service.

Safety Matters Construction Series information is extracted directly from OSHA safety materials. For additional information consult www.OSHA.gov