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TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# RISK REMINDER

## Guarding Floor Holes

OSHA has developed standards to prevent workers in construction from falling through skylights and roof and floor openings. Given recent accidents, now is a good time to review the OSHA requirements for guarding floor holes. A “hole” means a gap or void 2 inches or more in its least dimension, in a floor, roof, or other walking/working surface. [1926.500(b) – Definitions]

### Section 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4) states:

- (i) Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes.
- (ii) Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes (including skylights) by covers.
- (iii) Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from objects falling through holes (including skylights) by covers.

### Strength Requirement

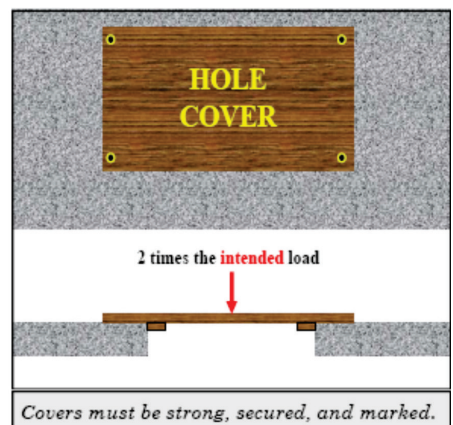
Floor hole covers must meet the applicable parts of 1926.502(i). Section 1926.502(i)(2) states: Covers shall be capable of supporting without failure, at least twice the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.

### Securing Requirement

Section 1926.502(i)(3) states: All covers shall be secured when installed so as to prevent accidental displacement by the wind, equipment, or employees.

### Marking Requirement

Section 1926.502(i)(4) states: All covers shall be color-coded or they shall be marked with the word “HOLE” or “COVER” to provide warning of the hazard.



**For more information, contact TOIRMA at (888) 562-7861**

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