

Skylights: Verify Fall-Through Protection

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 9, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

An installed skylight can still be a fall-through hazard. Glass, a dome or a weather seal does not by itself establish a safe walking surface. Check the route and protection before roof access or installation.

Objective: Verify protection through the skylight installation and roof-access handoff.

Key hazards or failure points

Fall through glazing or an uncovered hole; fragile roof areas; displaced cover; unprotected transfer; dropped unit or tools.

Practical controls

- Identify every skylight and opening affecting the route. Keep workers off glazing unless its intended use and the actual design explicitly establish a permitted walking surface; this briefing grants no such approval.
- Provide the applicable fall-through protection and protected access. Before removing a cover to set a unit, establish the alternative protection and control the interior area below.
- Keep required protection effective after the unit is seated. Complete specified retention before releasing lifting support, and hand over access restrictions and any remaining work to roof and building crews.

Verify It in the Field

The lead matches skylight and opening identifiers to the actual protection plan. Confirm roof/curb readiness and check the route from a protected position; do not step on a unit or unknown cover as a test.

For a selected cover, check the documented load basis, support, securement and marking against applicable criteria. Verify a guard or personal system by its own requirements; a product label alone does not settle suitability. Review the cover-removal and support-transfer sequence with installers. Record protection before, during and after placement, source, actual findings, checker and time. Confirm required rescue arrangements before exposure.

Stop and reassess

Hold for uncertain cover or skylight capacity, cracks, movement, removed protection, changed roof loading or an unprotected installation stage. Restrict access and obtain the required technical disposition. Restore and recheck protection before return; do not reach across fragile glazing to retrieve material.

Ask the crew

1. Which installed skylights remain fall-through hazards?
2. What protects the opening while the unit is set?
3. Who accepts the final protection and access restrictions?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.501(b)(4), .502(i); actual skylight/protection instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/skylight-fall-through-protection