

Metal Decking: Check Support, Securement and Openings

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Why this matters

A panel can look like a finished floor before its support, attachment or openings are ready for access. Check the actual installation stage before the crew moves onto the next area.

Objective: Verify the intended access, panel support and opening protection for today's decking stage.

Key hazards or failure points

Unsupported or moving panels; unstable bundles; unprotected cuts and column gaps; falling objects; incorrect access to a controlled decking zone.

Practical controls

- Use the erection documents and task-specific fall arrangement. Confirm who may enter each area and the training needed for that role.
- Confirm the approved landing and installation sequence. During initial placement, fully support panels on structural members. For the conventional arrangement covered here, lay panels tightly and secure them immediately against movement.
- Coordinate opening cuts with immediate protection or permanent filling under the applicable rule. Address column gaps and secure loose decking when conditions require, including shift end.

Verify It in the Field

From a protected position, compare the intended route with the actual installation stage. Ask the erection lead which panels and areas are ready for that access.

Have the responsible installer compare support and attachments with the specified detail. Identify any unsecured edge or changed load location; do not test questionable decking by stepping onto it.

Identify each planned cut and gap, its protection and the person controlling the handoff. Check cover evidence, securement and identification without lifting it. Record the location, source, finding, checker and time.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work for unknown support or attachment status, an uncovered opening, panel movement, changed load placement or unauthorized access. Stay protected; obtain correction and the responsible person's recheck before resuming.

Ask the crew

1. Which part of this deck is ready for our task and route?
2. Who verifies support and attachments as installation advances?
3. What protects the next opening immediately after it is cut?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.754(e), .757(e), .760–.761; current deck details.

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

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/metal-decking-placement-openings