

Acro Building Systems Press Release May 2011

Rake Edge Solution Arrives

“Harnesses cause more accidents than they prevent; they tangle with our air hoses and cause my guys to work more slowly.”

With the impending June 16th change in residential fall protection there really would have been no viable alternative to using harnesses when on a roof. It will no longer be acceptable to use roof brackets as slide guards, safety nets are extremely difficult to set up properly; and there is not a good way to attach guardrails on a rake edge without damaging shingles or fascia. Luckily, now there is a solution.



Acro Building Systems of Milwaukee, WI has developed a guardrail system that meets all of the new 2011 OSHA requirements for residential fall protection and interleaves with shingles just like a roof bracket. This makes their innovative system familiar for roofing contractors to use and leaves the finished roof pristine. This system can be used in all phases of construction; offering the great benefits of passive fall protection to anyone who needs to get on a roof.

The key development is the unique 12075 rake-edge guardrail bracket. The 12075 bracket supports the OSHA required 200lbs in both the outward and downward directions. This new bracket can be used in conjunction with the longstanding and proven 12070 steep-pitch guardrail bracket to form the ideal full residential guardrail system. Two sets of 2x4's are used with a toe board to form a continuous guardrail around the entire roof edge. This innovative system allows guardrails to be put up early in the new construction process or even prior to shingle removal on a tear off; and easily moved without having to take the system down.

Acro has the unique pride of taking roofing contractor safety to the next level. Their guardrail systems, which are still manufactured and hand-inspected in the United States, have been laboratory tested to assure they meet all OSHA requirements. The supporting documentation is available on their website; which is a vital part of written fall protection plans. Acro is also proud that their products are covered under Product Liability Insurance, an added benefit to both contractors and safety equipment resellers that foreign manufacturers cannot offer.

As passive fall protection, guardrail systems have several inherent advantages over other fall restraint/protection systems; and as such come highly recommended by safety inspectors. For one, they provide the greatest safety with the lowest liability. Qualified persons can install them and they can cover whoever gets on that roof regardless of discipline or their level of training. Guardrails do not require that every roofer, plumber, electrician or inspector be personally adjusted, fitted and trained. Ask your local safety officials about the benefits of Passive Fall Protection.

Guardrails also offer the advantage of being the least impeding and most economical solution. They eliminate the tangle of harness lines and air hoses that many contractors claim cause many accidents. There is no restriction on the size or makeup of contractor crews when guardrails are used. Time is saved by limited inspections and adjustments. With virtually no maintenance and being impervious to sun or weather; guardrails also offer the longest useful lifetime. Even tool and material slide protection is provided for workers below with a built in toe board.

After many discussions with OSHA officials, contractors and safety inspectors concerning the upcoming changes to residential fall protection; Acro identified a need for a new solution. Without any prompting, the development team determined that the industry standard guardrail system (Acro's 12070 system developed in the 1990's), would not meet the required forces along a rake edge. The key challenge was to develop a guardrail bracket that supported weight in two directions and did not damaging the water-fastness or look of the roofing material.

The first portion of the challenge was initially difficult to zero in on, as previous guardrail systems had only to support weight in one direction (down the roof); and no OSHA regulation specified which direction the weight needed to be supported on open edges. The second part of the challenge was perhaps the more important if contractors were ever to actually use the safety system properly. Acro knew that it needed a solution which interleaved with shingles like roof brackets so that they can be installed and removed without damage. The solution to both areas was a bracket wide enough to be secured into 2 rafters and long enough to reach under the next row of shingles above the tar line.

Please visit www.AcroBuildingSystems.com for full specifications and install instructions.

http://www.acrobuidingsystems.com/guardrail_systems.asp