

HOW TO PREVENT A FALL FROM THE CABIN ROOF

- Answer to a question from the SBS Lift Forum on the 3rd of December (more info [HERE](#))

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Basically, there is a risk of falling if the workplace is 100cm or higher above the floor and there is a hole larger than 30X50cm.

In Germany, a railing at a height of 100 cm or 110 cm with a central, foot and upper traverse is required as protection. If this is not possible, personal protective equipment against falling must be used. This must be attached to a suitable anchorage point.

Various systems are currently on the market (fall arrest and restraint systems). The difference is:

- **Fall arrest system:** it catches the free fall. It works safely from a fall height of approx. 500cm. The person hangs in the belt and must be released within approx. 20 minutes, otherwise the hanging trauma sets in. That means the rescue must be ensured, no single work possible.
- **Restraint system:** it prevents free fall, either it limits the path to the edge of the fall (old system) or reacts, like a safety belt in the car, at the beginning of the fall (new system). So there can be no hanging trauma, and the single work is possible.

According to the EN81-20 / 50 series of standards, a railing of 70 cm is required. For maintenance work that does not require any special effort and does not require bending over the railing, a railing height according to the EN 81-20 / 50 series of standards can be regarded as sufficient protection. **For work that requires effort or bending out, a railing with 70cm is not sufficient.** Additional protective measures are necessary. This applies in particular to older elevators that have no railing or a railing smaller than 70cm.