# CALCULATING FALL CLEARANCE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE 

PART ONE

## FREE FALL DISTANCE

Free fall distance (FF) is the distance a worker falls before the safety system begins to arrest a fall

PART TWO

## DECELERATION DISTANCE

Deceleration distance (DD) is the distance the worker falls from activation of the safety system until finally coming to a complete stop.

Lanyards manufactured to AS1891.1 are made to limit tear-out length depending on the distance fallen.

| Free Fall <br> (FF) | 600 mm | 1000 mm | 1500 mm | 2000 mm |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Deceleration <br> Distance (DD) | 300 mm | 500 mm | 600 mm | 900 mm |

PART THREE

## CLEARANCE TO OBSTRUCTION

Clearance to obstruction (C) is a mandatory safety factor of 1 metre.

The distance is specified in the Australian Standard AS/NZS1891.4


## Adding it all up: required fall clearance

The final calculation adds together free fall distance (FF), deceleration distance (DD) and clearance to obstruction (C).
$R D=F F+D D+C$


OPTION 1:
STANDARD 2M LANYARD

FF $=2-1.8+1.5 m$ or $1.7 m$
So RD $=1.7+0.9+1 \mathrm{~m}$ or 3.6 m

## OPTION 2:

HIGH ANCHOR POINT 1.6M LANYARD

FF $=1.6-1.8+1.5 \mathrm{~m}$ or 1.3 m
So RD $=1.3+0.6+1 \mathrm{~m}$ or 2.9 m


Ground and/or first obstruction


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Ground and/or first obstruction

