WINDOW CLEANING BAY AREA

WHITE PAPER

Window Cleaning Anchors And Fittings Under Cal/OSHA §3283

What California §3283 requires of window cleaning belt anchors and fittings: Division approval, A39.1 compliance, placement 42 to 51 inches above the sill, no expansion shields, inspection every 12 months and records.

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Executive Summary

Title 8 §3283 is California's rule for window cleaning anchors and fittings: the anchors beside a window that a window cleaner's safety belt clips into when working from the sill or from inside an openable window. It covers approval, placement, installation details and a 12-month inspection. Roof anchorages for rope descent are a separate topic under federal 1910.27 (see H2). This paper summarizes §3283 for owners and facility teams.

Key Points

- **Approved Anchors Only:** "Only those anchors and fittings granted approval by the Division shall be used." §3283(b)(1)
- **Built To A39.1:** Anchors and fittings must comply with Section 4.5 of ANSI/ASME A39.1-1991. §3283(b)(1)
- **42 To 51 Inches:** Anchors go 42 to 51 inches above the sill, with an exception for short windows. §3283(d)(1)
- **12-Month Inspection:** Anchors and fittings must be inspected at least every 12 months. §3283(e)
- **Replace After Impact:** Anchors subject to impact loading or possible structural damage must be replaced. §3283(f)

§3283 Scope

An installed anchor "shall not be used for any purpose other than attachment of window cleaner's belt terminals." Anchors are required on the inside of windows washed from the inside where there is a hazard of falling through to the outside, as defined in §3282(g)(2). §3283(a)(1)–(2) Windows cleaned from the sill must be structurally suited to anchors, and the rule sets minimum openings and maximum widths for sill work. §3283(a)(3)–(7)

Placement And Approved Anchors

Approval

Manufacturers must submit test data to the Division, and only Division-approved anchors and fittings may be used. Window units for new construction or remodeling must show the complete installation passed the A39.1 drop test without frame failure. §3283(b)

Location And Clearance

Anchors attach to the window side frames or the building "no less than 42 inches nor more than 51 inches above the window sill." For windows under 48 inches tall that are normally cleaned from outside, the anchor goes at about two-thirds of the window's height. §3283(d)(1) The anchor head needs at least one inch of side clearance, and the 4 to 5 inches above and below it must be kept free for belt terminals. §3283(c)(1)–(2)

Installation

Detailed bolt, washer and edge-distance rules apply by substrate, and "the use of expansion shield anchors is prohibited." §3283(c)(3), (d)(2)–(9) A series of fixed panels with no openable panels between them needs a continuous tie-off method, such as double-headed anchors or an overhead trolley. §3283(a)(8)

12-Month Inspection

"Inspection of window cleaning anchors and fittings on buildings shall be conducted at least every 12 months." §3283(e) Separately, §3282 requires owners to give employers written assurance, before use, that the building's safety devices (including window anchors and fittings) meet the orders, and those devices must also be inspected at least every 12 months. §3282(p)(1)

Records

Anchor Inspection Log Field	Basis
Anchor Location / ID	Tracking per §3283(e)
Manufacturer And Division Approval	§3283(b)(1)
Height Above Sill Verified (42–51 In.)	§3283(d)(1)
Inspection Date (Within 12 Months)	§3283(e); §3282(p)(1)(B)
Damage Or Impact Noted / Replaced	§3283(f)
Written Assurance Provided To Employer	§3282(p)(1)(A)

Sources

- Cal. Code Regs. Title 8 §3283. https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3283.html
- Cal. Code Regs. Title 8 §3282. https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3282.html
- 29 CFR 1910.27. https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/section-1910.27

This paper summarizes regulations and agency guidance for general information and is not legal advice. Requirements may change and vary by city; consult the current text, your local agency and qualified professionals.

About Window Cleaning Bay Area

Window Cleaning Bay Area provides commercial window cleaning, pressure washing and solar panel cleaning across the San Francisco Bay Area. Contact: grayson@windowcleaningbayarea.com