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In 2017, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published revised regulations for Walking and Working Surfaces in General Industry. As it pertains to professional window cleaning and building maintenance contractors, those regulations contained safety requirements for employers and employees with regards to fall protection systems and methods, falling object protection, ladders (fixed and transportable), scaffolds, Rope Descent Systems (RDS) and training and education.

In order to continue to fulfill our mission statement by promoting the success of members and the industry through standards of safety, education, advocacy and research, the IWCA along with industry experts, equipment manufacturers, professional safety trainers and the building management community; agree that a more comprehensive safety and training guideline is needed above the ones in the OSHA regulations.

Therefore, the IWCA is pleased to release the General Industry Safety Standard which identifies accepted Safe Practices for Rope Descent Systems.

This standard includes detailed and comprehensive requirements for worker training, evaluation, and certification as well as the shared responsibilities for building owners and managers, when this type of equipment is used.

The IWCA shall be providing certification of RDS operators and to do so, the IWCA and all their training affiliates shall be revising their Safety and Training Programs to recognize and include these safe practices. Furthermore, the IWCA will be updating the online testing to coincide with the authorized technician and certified technician categories as defined in this new Standard.

Please continue to check back regularly at IWCA.org

Stay Safe.