



WEEKLY SAFETY TALK #4: TAILGATE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Anchor Points: The 5,000-Pound Rule and the Half Nobody Quotes

Foreman: work through these with the crew on site. Point at the actual roof, the actual gear. Then run the quick check and sign off.

TALK IT THROUGH (10 MINUTES, ON THE JOB SITE)

1 What makes an anchor point legal under OSHA?

Prompt: Two paths in 1926.502(d)(15): capable of 5,000 pounds per worker attached, OR engineered into a complete system with a two-to-one safety factor under a Qualified Person. Which path covers the anchor on our roof today?

2 Can we ever tie off to a guardrail, a hoist, or the truck?

Prompt: Never a guardrail or hoist (1926.502(d)(23)); a guardrail only resists 200 pounds. And anything with keys in it can be driven away while you are tied to it. What is the worst anchor anyone here has ever seen used?

3 How many of us can tie off to this one anchor?

Prompt: Whatever the label says, and most single-point roof anchors are rated for ONE worker. The 5,000-pound rule is per employee attached (1926.502(d)(15)). Who checked the label on our anchor this morning?

4 Who is allowed to pick the anchor point?

Prompt: A Competent Person can field-select heavy structure using the conservative numbers. Engineered anchorages need a Qualified Person (1926.32(m)): degree, certificate, or proven expertise. Who fills each role on this crew?

5 Our lines are rigged so nobody can reach the edge. Does that change the rules?

Prompt: Only if nobody can reach the fall hazard from ANY position on ANY line length. If the edge is reachable, it is fall arrest and arrest anchor rules govern. Walk the roof edge in your head: can anyone here reach it?

QUICK CHECK: CIRCLE THE ANSWERS AS A CREW

A. A non-certified fall arrest anchor must support, per worker: 1,800 lbs 5,000 lbs 310 lbs

B. Tying off to a guardrail is: Fine if it feels solid Never allowed Allowed with permission

C. An engineered anchorage is designed by: Anyone on the crew A Competent Person A Qualified Person

CREW SIGN-OFF (29 CFR 1926.503(b) requires written training certification)

NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	DATE

Foreman / competent person: _____ Job site: _____ Date: _____

Key: A) 5,000 lbs (1926.502(d)(15)) B) Never allowed (1926.502(d)(23)) C) A Qualified Person (1926.32(m))

For information purposes only; all plans must be approved by a Competent or Qualified Person before work begins, as required by OSHA.

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