

BS EN 13374:2025 What the Update Means for Edge Protection

Safer Sites Start with Better Standards



The construction industry is constantly evolving, and safety regulations evolve with it. As buildings grow taller and construction methods become more demanding, the systems used to protect workers at height must keep pace.

The introduction of BS EN 13374:2025 marks an important step forward for temporary edge protection across Europe. This latest revision strengthens performance requirements and brings greater clarity to how different systems should be used on site.

For contractors, designers, and safety professionals, understanding what's changed is key to staying compliant and keeping teams protected.

Why BS EN 13374 Matters

Falls from height continue to be one of the most serious risks in construction. Edge protection systems such as guardrails and barrier panels exist to reduce this risk — but only if they are proven to perform under real site conditions.

BS EN 13374 sets out the testing and performance criteria these systems must meet before they can be used on live projects. It ensures equipment can withstand forces caused by people, tools, materials, and environmental loads like wind.

In short, the standard provides confidence that edge protection will perform when it is needed most.

What's New in the 2025 Edition?

The 2025 update builds on the previous 2013+A1:2018 version, with several key improvements designed to increase consistency and reliability:

- **Clearer guidance on system classes**
The distinction between Class A systems (for low-slope or flat surfaces) and Class B systems (for steeper or higher-risk areas) is more clearly defined.
- **Improved international compatibility**
The revised standard aligns more closely with global regulations, helping companies working across borders standardise their approach.
- **More realistic testing methods**
Load and impact tests now better represent the conditions systems face during everyday use on site.
- **Stronger focus on certification and records**
Manufacturers and suppliers must provide clearer evidence of compliance, making verification simpler for contractors and inspectors.

Rather than changing the purpose of the standard, these updates improve how it is applied and understood.

Practical Impact on Construction Sites

The revised standard affects more than just manufacturers — it also changes how edge protection is selected and managed on site:

- Procurement teams must ensure systems are certified to BS EN 13374:2025, not earlier versions.
- Design and planning teams need to specify the correct class of system from the outset.
- Site managers and inspectors will see greater emphasis on documentation and traceability.

These changes make it easier to demonstrate that the correct system has been chosen for the specific risks present on each project.

Moving Beyond Compliance

While regulations are essential, they are based on real incidents and lessons learned across the industry. Every requirement in BS EN 13374:2025 reflects known hazards and practical experience from construction sites.



Using systems certified to the latest standard helps to support accident prevention, improves workforce confidence, and helps maintain efficient, well-organised sites.

KGuard International and International Standards

KGuard International edge protection systems are designed to meet BS EN 13374:2025 Class A and Class B requirements, alongside major international regulations including:

- OSHA 1926.502 (USA)
- AS/NZS 4994.1:2009 (Australia and New Zealand)

For contractors operating across multiple regions, this reduces complexity by allowing one engineered system to be used in different regulatory environments.

The KGUARD logo, consisting of the word "KGUARD" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, is centered within a yellow arrow shape that points to the right. The arrow is set against a dark blue background.

The Wider Industry Direction

The updated standard reflects a broader move toward engineered, durable, and traceable safety solutions. Modern edge protection is increasingly expected to be reusable, refurbishable, and suitable for long-term service.

Although digital safety tools such as wearables and monitoring software are gaining attention, physical barriers remain the primary safeguard against falls from height.

Only a tested and certified system can provide true physical protection.

Summary

BS EN 13374:2025

represents more than a routine update — it reinforces the industry's responsibility to protect those working at height.

By raising expectations for temporary edge protection, the standard supports safer working environments and clearer decision-making on site.

Key actions for contractors include:

- Reviewing existing edge protection systems
- Confirming compliance with the 2025 standard
- Selecting solutions that balance safety, durability, and sustainability.

At KGuard International, our focus is on delivering engineered edge protection systems that improve safety, simplify installation, and exceed regulatory requirements.

To find out more about BS EN 13374:2025 -compliant solutions for your next project, contact KGuard International today.



What are the load requirements for **BS EN 13374:2025**

Static Loads (Classes A & B)

- The system must resist point loads applied at the guardrail, post, or Toeboard.
- Serviceability Limit State (deflection check) Guardrails / posts: 300 N point load Toeboard: 200 N point load
- Maximum deflection: ≤ 55 mm
- Ultimate Limit State (strength check)
- Guardrails / structural parts: 300 N point load
- Toeboard: 200 N point load
- (Load applied in the most unfavourable position along the system.)

Horizontal / Parallel Load

- 200 N horizontal load applied parallel to the edge protection system.

Accidental Load (misuse scenario)

- 1.25 kN (1250 N) downward point load
- Maximum allowed deflection during this load: 300 mm.

Wind Load

- 600 N/m² covers most wind conditions in Europe. More unfavourable conditions can occur. The peak wind velocity pressure is based upon 40 m height and an exposure period of 6 months and represents a peak wind velocity of approximately 31 m/s.

Dynamic Load Requirements (by Class)

- Class A No dynamic load requirement
- Class B Must absorb 1100 J impact energy up to 200 mm above working surface and 500 J above this height These simulate a person or object impacting the guardrail system.

Typical Applications by Class

- Class A: Flat surfaces or roof pitch $\leq 10^\circ$ Class
- B: Roof pitch 10° – 30° Class
- C: Roof pitch 30° – 45°

Class	Type of load	
	Static load	Dynamic load
A	X	-
B	X	X
C	-	X