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## 29 C.F.R. § 1926.650

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### Scope, application, and definitions applicable to this subpart.

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(a) *Scope and application.* This subpart applies to all open excavations made in the earth's surface. Excavations are defined to include trenches.

(b) *Definitions applicable to this subpart.*

*Accepted engineering practices* means those requirements which are compatible with standards of practice required by a registered professional engineer.

*Aluminum Hydraulic Shoring* means a pre-engineered shoring system comprised of aluminum hydraulic cylinders (crossbraces) used in conjunction with vertical rails (uprights) or horizontal rails (walers). Such system is designed, specifically to support the sidewalls of an excavation and prevent cave-ins.

*Bell-bottom pier hole* means a type of shaft or footing excavation, the bottom of which is made larger than the cross section above to form a belled shape.

*Benching* (Benching system) means a method of protecting employees from cave-ins by excavating the sides of an excavation to form one or a series of horizontal levels or steps, usually with vertical or near-vertical surfaces between levels.

*Cave-in* means the separation of a mass of soil or rock material from the side of an excavation, or the loss of soil from under a trench shield or support system, and its sudden movement into the excavation, either by falling or sliding, in sufficient quantity so that it could entrap, bury, or otherwise injure and immobilize a person.

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