

Why Stub-EASE™ exists.

A safety positioning sheet for specifiers, GCs, and electrical contractors

Vertical conduit stub-ups protruding from a freshly poured concrete deck are one of the most consistently cited hazards on commercial electrical jobs. They impale. When workers shorten them to get clear of impalement, they trip workers. Stub-EASE™ was engineered to retire both failure modes at the same time — by eliminating the bare stub-up itself.

THE CORE CLAIM

Stub-EASE™ replaces an exposed, rigid steel or PVC stub-up with a high-visibility, low-durometer soft-cap assembly that deflects under foot pressure instead of impaling — and finishes flush with the top of the slab so there is nothing left to trip over after the pour.

1. THE TWO HAZARDS EVERY SUPER HAS SEEN

Impalement.

OSHA enforces fall-and-impalement risk on concrete decks under the General Duty Clause **Section 5(a)(1)** of the OSH Act and, where applicable, under **29 CFR 1926.701(b)** (reinforcing steel) and the Subpart M fall-protection rules. Citations for unprotected vertical conduit stub-ups have been issued on high-rise concrete projects in the Chicago area: in one documented case, a general contractor was cited under 5(a)(1) for hundreds of 9–12 inch conduit stub-ups exposing approximately fifty employees to impalement hazards, with a per-instance monetary penalty assessed.

The workaround that creates a new hazard.

The most common field response is to cut the stub-up down to roughly two inches and install a threaded coupling on top. The cited impalement risk goes away — but a short, flush-to-low-profile metal coupling sitting just above slab grade is hard to see, especially under dust, debris, or form-release sheen. Trip events go up. This is the workaround OSHA does not cite, but it is the one that lands trades on the deck.

OSH Act §5(a)(1)	General Duty Clause — employers must furnish a workplace free of recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm.
29 CFR 1926.25	Housekeeping — projecting nails, scrap, debris, and protruding objects must be removed from work areas.
29 CFR 1926.501	Subpart M — Duty to have fall protection; addresses falls onto exposed reinforcing steel and similar projections.
29 CFR 1926.701(b)	Reinforcing steel — all protruding reinforcing steel onto and into which employees could fall must be guarded to eliminate impalement.

2. WHY A SOFT CAP — NOT A RIGID CAP — SOLVES BOTH

Plastic stub-up caps already exist. Most are rigid polyethylene or rigid PVC — and most are sold as impalement-protection caps. They work for impalement because they distribute load over a wider bearing area. But they remain a rigid object proud of the deck, and they still create the same trip risk a coupling does once forms come off.

The Stub-EASE™ II cap is molded from a **Thermoplastic Rubber (TPR) compound at Shore A 45** — comparable in feel to a soft tire tread or a soft pencil eraser. That durometer was chosen deliberately:

Deflects, doesn't impale	At Shore A 45, the cap collapses laterally under the weight of a worker stepping on it. There is no rigid edge to puncture a boot sole or a hand catching a fall.
High-visibility orange	Pantone 021 C orange is pre-compounded into the TPR — not a coating that can be ground off. Stays visible after foot-traffic abrasion, concrete dust, and curing compound.
Flush after the pour	Stub-EASE™ II is engineered to finish flush with the top of the slab , not proud. Once the pour cures and the cap is pulled for wall rough-in, there is nothing left above grade to trip over. (V1 used a foam-insert geometry that trimmed flush after the pour; V2 reaches the same flush condition by design, with no foam insert and no trim step.)
Stays put under power-trowel	Tested to remain seated under power-trowel finishing forces; the cap takes the abuse so the elbow underneath stays clean and ready for conductors.

3. THE FIELD COMPARISON

THE WORKAROUND (WRONG WAY)	THE STUB-EASE WAY
<p>Cut the stub down, add a coupling. Removes the impalement citation, but leaves a hard, low, hard-to-see metal object on a freshly finished deck. Trip risk rises. Coupling threads can also be damaged before wall rough-in starts.</p>	<p>Leave Stub-EASE™ II in place through the pour. Cap is soft, bright orange, and flush with the slab. No impalement risk, no trip risk, and the elbow underneath is sealed against concrete intrusion until the electrician is ready.</p>
<p>Tape, foam, or rag stuffed in the stub. Improvised seals fail under the pour. Concrete laitance enters the conduit, and the conductors later snag, gall, or stop at the elbow knuckle.</p>	<p>Factory-torqued NPT seal, soft-cap geometry above. The cap threads onto the elbow's NPT port at the factory. No field assembly variance. Concrete cannot reach the inside of the raceway.</p>
<p>Rigid plastic mushroom-style cap (legacy products). Resolves impalement, but the cap itself remains a rigid projection above the slab until manually removed. Trips happen between strip-out and wall framing.</p>	<p>Low-durometer cap that finishes flush. Designed to sit at slab grade — not above it — and to deflect rather than catch a boot toe.</p>

4. WHAT THIS LETS A JOB SITE CLAIM

When Stub-EASE™ is specified on a deck pour, the electrical contractor and the GC can put the following on their pre-pour safety plan, their daily JHA, and — where applicable — their pre-bid safety narrative:

- Vertical conduit stub-ups on this deck are **capped at all times** from the moment the elbow leaves the factory until the electrician opens it for wall rough-in.
- The cap is engineered to **deflect rather than impale** on impact, addressing the impalement concern raised by OSH Act §5(a)(1) and 29 CFR 1926.701(b).
- The cap finishes **flush with the top of slab**, eliminating the secondary trip hazard created by traditional cut-down-and-cap workarounds (29 CFR 1926.25 housekeeping).
- The cap is **high-visibility orange** through the body of the part — not surface coating — and remains visible under typical pour and finishing debris.
- No site cutting, no field-applied tape or foam, and no rebar tying around individual stubs is required in the field installation step.



5. WHAT THIS SHEET IS NOT

This sheet is a positioning document — it explains why the product exists and what hazards it addresses. It is **not** a substitute for project-specific OSHA compliance review, AHJ approval, or the electrical contractor's own job hazard analysis. Citations and CFR references above are provided for context; applicability to any specific deck condition is the responsibility of the employer of record.

For the full materials of construction, supplier identification, and standards-conformance language, see the companion **Materials & Compliance Statement** (CSUE-MCS-001). For installation sequence and inspection notes, see the **Stub-EASE V2 Means and Methods** sheet.