



U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration

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Safety and Health Topics: Walking/Working Surfaces

Safety and Health Topics

Walking/Working Surfaces

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Slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents. They cause 15% of all accidental deaths, and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities. The OSHA standards for walking and working surfaces apply to all permanent places of employment, except where only domestic, mining, or agricultural work is performed.

Related Safety and Health Topics

- [Construction: Walking/Working Surfaces](#)
- [Scaffolding](#)

Recognition

- [Stairways and Ladders: A Guide to OSHA Rules](#). OSHA Publication 3124 (2003, Revised), 278 KB PDF, 36 pages.

Control

- [The Use of Floor Locks on Ladders](#). OSHA Hazard Information Bulletin (1991, February 15), 1 page.

Compliance

■ OSHA Standards

General Industry

- [1910.22](#), General requirements. This section applies to all permanent places of employment, except where only domestic, mining, or agricultural work is performed.
- [1910.23](#), Guarding floor and wall openings and holes.
- [1910.24](#), Fixed industrial stairs.
- [1910.25](#), Portable wood ladders.
- [1910.26](#), Portable metal ladders.
- [1910.27](#), Fixed ladders.
- [1910.28](#), Safety requirements for scaffolding.
- [1910.29](#), Manually propelled mobile ladder stands and scaffolds (towers).
- [1910.30](#), Other working surfaces.

Shipyards Operations

- [1915.72](#), Ladders.
- [1915.73](#), Guarding of deck openings and edges.
- [1915.74](#), Access to vessels.
- [1915.75](#), Access to and guarding of dry docks and marine railways.
- [1915.76](#), Access to cargo spaces and confined spaces.
- [1915.77](#), Working surfaces.

Marine Terminals

- [1917.12](#), Slippery conditions.
- [1917.111](#), Maintenance and load limits.
- [1917.112](#), Guarding of edges.
- [1917.113](#), Clearance heights.
- [1917.114](#), Cargo doors.
- [1917.115](#), Platforms and skids.
- [1917.116](#), Elevators and escalators.
- [1917.117](#), Manlifts.
- [1917.118](#), Fixed ladders.
- [1917.119](#), Portable ladders.
- [1917.120](#), Fixed Stairways.

- [1917.121](#), Spiral stairways.
- [1917.124](#), Passage between levels and across openings.
- [1917.125](#), Guarding temporary hazards.

Longshoring

- [1918.32](#), Stowed cargo and temporary landing platforms.
 - [1918.33](#), Deck loads.
 - [1918.34](#), Other decks.
 - [1918.35](#), Open hatches.
 - [1918.36](#), Weather deck rails.
 - [1918.37](#), Barges.
- **OSHA Directives**
 - [CPL 2-1.4C](#), Inspection of Grain Handling Facilities, 29 CFR 1910.272.
 - [STD .2](#), Identification of General Industry Safety and Health Standards (29 CFR 1910) Applicable to Shipyard Work.
 - [STD 1-1.12](#), Application of 29 CFR 1910.27, Fixed Ladders, to Fixed Ladders Used in Emergency Situations.
 - [STD 1-1.13](#), Fall Protection in General Industry 29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1) (c)(3), and 29 CFR 1910.132(a).
 - [STD 1-1.14](#), Fixed Ladders Used on Outdoor Advertising Structures/Billboards in the Outdoor Advertising Industry.
 - [STD 1-1.5](#), 29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1), Protection of Opensided Floors, Platforms and Runways; Guardrails – Loading Rack Platforms.
 - [STD 1-1.9](#), 29 CFR 1910.27, Clarification of Fixed Ladders, Relative to Manhole (Rungs) Steps.
 - **OSHA Unified Agenda**
 - The OSHA Unified Agenda contains an entry on [Walking Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems](#), (2002, December 9).
 - **Review Commission and Administrative Law Judge Decisions**

The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) is an independent Federal agency created to decide contests of citations or penalties resulting from OSHA inspections of American work places. To locate decisions related to this topic, search for keywords at the [OSHRC site](#).
 - **Standard Interpretations and Compliance Letters**

[Search](#) for interpretations and compliance letters related to this topic. Due to the large number of references available, you may want to refine or alter the query using terms specific to your interest.

Training

- [OSHA's Small Business Outreach Training Program](#), Section 15 – Walking/Working Surfaces.
 - [Discussion/Overheads](#). 2.2 MB PDF file, 30 pages.
 - [Student Handouts](#). 282 KB PDF file, 11 pages.
- [Walking-Working Surfaces](#). 2.96 MB ZIP. This material is designed to assist trainers conducting OSHA 10-hour General Industry outreach training for workers. Since workers are the target audience, the material emphasizes hazard identification, avoidance, and control — not standards. No attempt has been made to treat the topic exhaustively.

Revised: 29 May 2003

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