

**§ 1910.24 Fixed industrial stairs.**

(a) *Application of requirements.* This section contains specifications for the safe design and construction of fixed general industrial stairs. This classification includes interior and exterior stairs around machinery, tanks, and other equipment, and stairs leading to or from floors, platforms, or pits. This section does not apply to stairs used for fire exit purposes, to construction operations to private residences, or to articulated stairs, such as may be installed on floating roof tanks or on dock facilities, the angle of which changes with the rise and fall of the base support.

(b) *Where fixed stairs are required.* Fixed stairs shall be provided for access from one structure level to another where operations necessitate regular travel between levels, and for access to operating platforms at any equipment which requires attention routinely during operations. Fixed stairs shall also be provided where access to elevations is daily or at each shift for such purposes as gauging, inspection, regular maintenance, etc., where such work may expose employees to acids, caustics, gases, or other harmful substances, or for which purposes the carrying of tools or equipment by hand is normally required. (It is not the intent of this section to preclude the use of fixed ladders for access to elevated tanks, towers, and similar structures, overhead traveling cranes, etc., where the use of fixed ladders is common practice.) Spiral stairways shall not be permitted except for special limited usage and secondary access situations where it is not practical to provide a conventional stairway. Winding stairways may be installed on tanks and similar round structures where the diameter of the structure is not less than five (5) feet.

(c) *Stair strength.* Fixed stairways shall be designed and constructed to carry a load of five times the normal live load anticipated but never of less strength than to carry safely a moving concentrated load of 1,000 pounds.

(d) *Stair width.* Fixed stairways shall have a minimum width of 22 inches.

(e) *Angle of stairway rise.* Fixed stairs shall be installed at angles to the horizontal of between 30° and 50°. Any uni-

form combination of rise/tread dimensions may be used that will result in a stairway at an angle to the horizontal within the permissible range. Table D-1 gives rise/tread dimensions which will produce a stairway within the permissible range, stating the angle to the horizontal produced by each combination. However, the rise/tread combinations are not limited to those given in Table D-1.

TABLE D-1

| Angle to horizontal | Rise (in inches) | Tread run (in inches) |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 30°35'              | 6½               | 11                    |
| 32°08'              | 6¾               | 10¾                   |
| 33°41'              | 7                | 10½                   |
| 35°16'              | 7¼               | 10¼                   |
| 36°52'              | 7½               | 10                    |
| 38°29'              | 7¾               | 9¾                    |
| 40°08'              | 8                | 9½                    |
| 41°44'              | 8¼               | 9¼                    |
| 43°22'              | 8½               | 9                     |
| 45°00'              | 8¾               | 8¾                    |
| 46°38'              | 9                | 8½                    |
| 48°16'              | 9¼               | 8¼                    |
| 49°54'              | 9½               | 8                     |

(f) *Stair treads.* All treads shall be reasonably slip-resistant and the nosings shall be of nonslip finish. Welded bar grating treads without nosings are acceptable providing the leading edge can be readily identified by personnel descending the stairway and provided the tread is serrated or is of definite nonslip design. Rise height and tread width shall be uniform throughout any flight of stairs including any foundation structure used as one or more treads of the stairs.

(g) *Stairway platforms.* Stairway platforms shall be no less than the width of a stairway and a minimum of 30 inches in length measured in the direction of travel.

(h) *Railings and handrails.* Standard railings shall be provided on the open sides of all exposed stairways and stair platforms. Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of closed stairways preferably on the right side descending. Stair railings and handrails shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of §1910.23.

(i) *Vertical clearance.* Vertical clearance above any stair tread to an overhead obstruction shall be at least 7 feet

measured from the leading edge of the tread.

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**§ 1910.25 Portable wood ladders.**

(a) *Application of requirements.* This section is intended to prescribe rules and establish minimum requirements for the construction, care, and use of the common types of portable wood ladders, in order to insure safety under normal conditions of usage. Other types of special ladders, fruitpicker's ladders, combination step and extension ladders, stockroom step ladders, aisle-way step ladders, shelf ladders, and library ladders are not specifically covered by this section.

(b) *Materials—(1) Requirements applicable to all wood parts.* (i) All wood parts shall be free from sharp edges and splinters; sound and free from accepted visual inspection from shake, wane, compression failures, decay, or other irregularities. Low density wood shall not be used.

(ii) [Reserved]

(2) [Reserved]

(c) *Construction requirements.*

(1) [Reserved]

(2) *Portable stepladders.* Stepladders longer than 20 feet shall not be supplied. Stepladders as hereinafter specified shall be of three types:

Type I—Industrial stepladder, 3 to 20 feet for heavy duty, such as utilities, contractors, and industrial use.

Type II—Commercial stepladder, 3 to 12 feet for medium duty, such as painters, offices, and light industrial use.

Type III—Household stepladder, 3 to 6 feet for light duty, such as light household use.

(i) *General requirements.*

(a) [Reserved]

(b) A uniform step spacing shall be employed which shall be not more than 12 inches. Steps shall be parallel and level when the ladder is in position for use.

(c) The minimum width between side rails at the top, inside to inside, shall be not less than 11½ inches. From top to bottom, the side rails shall spread at least 1 inch for each foot of length of stepladder.

(d)–(e) [Reserved]

(f) A metal spreader or locking device of sufficient size and strength to securely hold the front and back sections in open positions shall be a component of each stepladder. The spreader shall have all sharp points covered or removed to protect the user. For Type III ladder, the pail shelf and spreader may be combined in one unit (the so-called shelf-lock ladder).

(3) *Portable rung ladders.*

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) *Single ladder.* (a) Single ladders longer than 30 feet shall not be supplied.

(b) [Reserved]

(iii) *Two-section ladder.* (a) Two-section extension ladders longer than 60 feet shall not be supplied. All ladders of this type shall consist of two sections, one to fit within the side rails of the other, and arranged in such a manner that the upper section can be raised and lowered.

(b) [Reserved]

(iv) *Sectional ladder.* (a) Assembled combinations of sectional ladders longer than lengths specified in this subdivision shall not be used.

(b) [Reserved]

(v) *Trestle and extension trestle ladder.*

(a) Trestle ladders, or extension sections or base sections of extension trestle ladders longer than 20 feet shall not be supplied.

(b) [Reserved]

(4) *Special-purpose ladders.*

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) *Painter's stepladder.* (a) Painter's stepladders longer than 12 feet shall not be supplied.

(b) [Reserved]

(iii) *Mason's ladder.* A mason's ladder is a special type of single ladder intended for use in heavy construction work.

(a) Mason's ladders longer than 40 feet shall not be supplied.

(b) [Reserved]

(5) *Trolley and side-rolling ladders—* (i) *Length.* Trolley ladders and side-rolling ladders longer than 20 feet should not be supplied.

(ii) [Reserved]

(d) *Care and use of ladders—*(1) *Care.* To insure safety and serviceability the following precautions on the care of ladders shall be observed: