

Stairs

Additional Resources:

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A stairway or ladder must be provided at all worker points of access where there is a break in elevation of 19" or more and no ramp, runway, sloped embankment, or personnel hoist is provided. 1926.1051(a)

Except during construction of the actual stairway, skeleton metal frame structures and steps must not be used (where treads and/or landings are to be installed at a later date), unless the stairs are fitted with secured temporary treads and landings. 1926.1052(b)(2)

When there is only one point of access between levels, it must be kept clear to permit free passage by workers. If free passage becomes restricted, a second point of access must be provided and used. 1926.1051(a)(3)

When there are more than two points of access between levels, at least one point of access must be kept clear. 1926.1051(a)(4)

All stairway and ladder fall protection systems must be provided and installed as required by the stairway and ladder rules before employees begin work that requires them to use stairways or ladders and their respective fall protection systems. 1926.1051(b)

Stairways that will not be a permanent part of the structure on which construction work is performed must have landings at least 30 inches deep and 22" wide at every 12' or less of vertical rise. 1926.1052(a)(1)

Stairways must be installed at least 30 degrees, and no more than 50 degrees, from the horizontal. 1926.1052(a)(2)

Variations shall not be over 1/4-inch in any stairway system riser height or tread depth. 1926.1052(a)(3)

Where doors or gates open directly onto a stairway, a platform must be provided, and the swing of the door shall not reduce the effective width of the platform to less than 20". 1926.1052(a)(4)

Except during construction of the actual stairway, stairways with metal pan landings and treads must not be used where the treads and/ or landings have not been filled in with concrete or other material, unless the pans of the stairs and/ or landings are temporarily filled in with wood or other material. All treads and landings must be replaced when worn below the top edge of the pan. 1926.1052(b)(1)

Stairways having four or more risers, or rising more than 30" in height, whichever is less, must have at least one handrail. A stairrail also must be installed along each unprotected side or edge. When the top edge of a stairrail system also serves as a handrail, the height of the top edge must not be more than 37" nor less than 36" from the upper surface of the stairrail to the surface of the tread in line with face of riser at forward edge of tread. 1926.1052(c)(1)(i) - (ii)

Midrails, screens, mesh, intermediate vertical members, or equivalent intermediate structural members must be provided between the top rail and stairway steps of the stairrail system. 1926.1052(c)(4)

Midrails, when used, must be located midway between the top of the stairrail system and the stairway steps. 1926.1052(c)(4)(i)

The height of handrails must not be more than 37" nor less than 30" from the upper surface of the handrail to the surface of the tread in line with face of riser at forward edge of tread. 1926.1052(c)(6)

The height of the top edge of a stairrail system used as a handrail must not be more than 37" nor less than 36" from the upper surface of the stairrail system to the surface of the tread in line with face of riser at forward edge of tread. 1926.1052(c)(7)

Temporary handrails must have a minimum clearance of 3" between the handrail and walls, stairrail systems, and other objects. 1926.1052(c)(11)

Unprotected sides and edges of stairway landings must be provided with guardrail systems. 1926.1052(c)(12)