

 **FACT SHEET**

Walking-working surfaces at a glance

OAR 437 • Division 2/D



Falls from heights and on the same level (a working surface) are among the leading causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths. A walking-working surface is any horizontal or vertical surface on which an employee walks, works, or gains access to a work area. The rules, in [Division 2, Subdivision D](#), apply to walking-working surfaces in all general industry workplaces.



1910.22 – General requirements

Workplaces, including passageways, storerooms, service rooms, and walking-working surfaces, must be clean, orderly, and sanitary.

Employees must have a safe way to access and exit all walking-working surfaces.

Walking-working surfaces must be inspected regularly and kept in a safe condition.

Other Oregon general rules

- 437-002-0022, Additional Oregon general requirements includes requirements for protective barriers; provisions for safety in plant design, layout, and operation; and requirements for aisles, passageways, walkways, and inclines.
- 437-002-0032, Ramps and runways includes ramp and runway requirements for vehicles.
- 437-002-0033, Piers and wharves includes requirements for piers and wharves.

1910.23 – Ladders

1910.23 covers all ladders, except ladders used in emergencies (such as firefighting, rescue, and law enforcement activities) and ladders that are an integral part of machines or equipment.

Ladders covered by 1910.23 now include portable ladders, fixed ladders, mobile ladder stands, and mobile ladder stand platforms.

Other Oregon ladder rules

437-002-0026, Portable ladders covers the selection and use of portable ladders, including job-made ladders.

1910.24 – Step bolts and manhole steps

Step bolts

- Installed before Jan. 1, 2018, must be capable of supporting their maximum intended loads.
- Installed on or after Jan. 1, 2018:
 - Must be constructed of, or coated with, corrosion-resistant material if they are in areas where corrosion may occur.
 - Must be capable of supporting at least four times their maximum intended loads.

Manhole steps

- Must be inspected at the start of each work shift.
- If installed after Jan. 1, 2018, they must meet specific requirements for slip resistance, corrosion resistance, width, and vertical spacing.

1910.25 – Stairways

1910.25 covers all stairways, except those serving floating roof tanks, stairs on scaffolds, stairs designed into machines or equipment, and stairs on self-propelled motorized equipment.

All stairs must be standard stairs – installed at an angle from 30 degrees to 50 degrees from horizontal – unless an employer can demonstrate that such stairs are not feasible; then, spiral, ship, or alternating tread-type stairs are acceptable alternatives.

When a door or a gate opens directly on a stairway, a platform must be available and the swing of the door or gate must not reduce the platform's usable depth less than:

- 20 inches for platforms installed before Jan. 1, 2018.
- 22 inches for platforms installed on or after Jan. 1, 2018.

Standard stairs built on or after Jan. 1, 2018, must have a maximum riser height of 9.5 inches and a minimum tread depth of 9.5 inches.

1910.26 – Dockboards

Dockboards must be able to support their maximum intended loads.

Dockboards must prevent vehicles from running off the edge.



1910.27 – Scaffolds and rope descent systems

Scaffolds must meet all of the requirements in [Division 3, Subdivision L](#) (Scaffolding). Employees who erect, dismantle, move, or work from a scaffold must be trained according to the requirements in [1926.454, Scaffolding, Training requirements](#).

Other Oregon rules

437-002-2027 establishes safety requirements for rope descent and rope access systems, which are used for tasks such as cleaning buildings, inspecting dams and bridges, and reaching difficult areas.



The building owner must inform the employer in writing that each permanent anchorage has been identified, tested, certified, and maintained so it can support at least 5,000 pounds in any direction.

The employer must ensure that no employee uses any permanent anchorage before the employer has obtained the written information from the building owner.

Rope access is a system in which two ropes are used to gain access to a work area; one rope serves as the primary means of support, and the second rope is used for fall-arrest. Rope access is different from rope descent.

1910.28 – Duty to have fall protection and falling object protection

Employers must protect employees exposed to falls and falling objects by following the requirements in 1910.29, Fall protection systems and falling object protection. Personal fall protection systems must meet the requirements in 1910.140, (Division 2, Subdivision I, Personal protective equipment).

1910.28(b) requires an employer to provide protection from falls, generally triggered at 4 feet above a lower level. Other trigger heights are also established in 1910.28(b).

Fixed ladders

Fixed ladders that extend more than 24 feet above a lower level must be equipped with:

- A personal fall-arrest system, ladder safety system, cage, or well if installed before Nov. 1, 2019.
- A personal fall-arrest system or a ladder safety system if installed on and after Nov. 1, 2019.

By Dec. 1, 2036, all fixed ladders must be equipped with a personal fall arrest system or a ladder safety system.

1910.29 – Fall protection systems and falling object protection – criteria and practices

1910.29 includes the fall protection and falling-object protection requirements for:

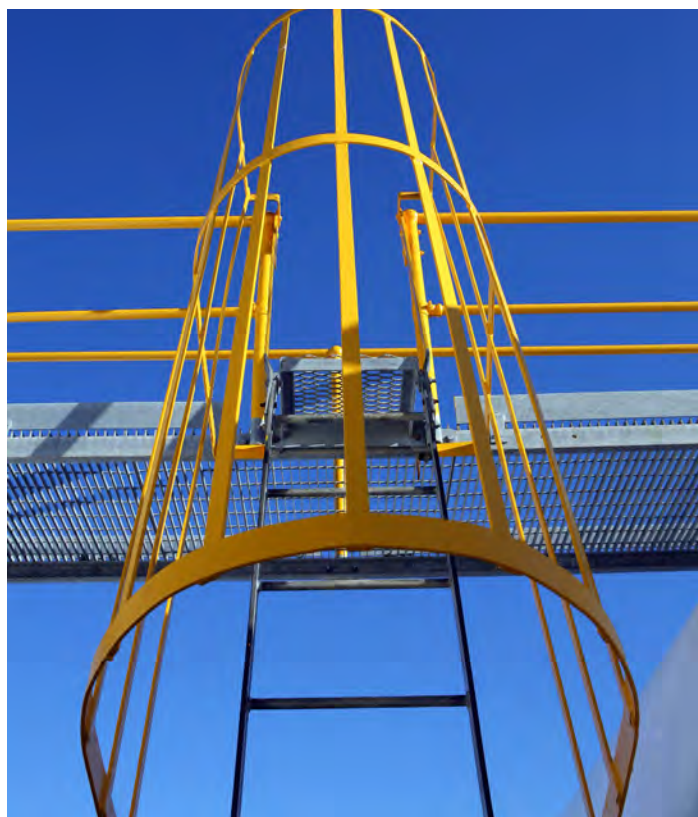
- Guardrail systems
- Safety net systems
- Designated areas
- Covers
- Handrail and stair rail systems
- Cages, wells, and platforms used with fixed ladders
- Outdoor advertising
- Ladder safety systems
- Personal fall protection systems
- Protection from falling objects
- Grab handles

The height of guardrail systems

Regardless of the installation date, the top edge height must be 42 inches, plus or minus 3 inches.

1910.30 – Training requirements

Training in a language the employee understands is required for each employee who uses personal fall protection systems. Training must cover the manufacturer's instructions and proper care, storage, and use of the equipment.



Visit Oregon OSHA

Workers

Your employer cannot retaliate against you for reporting a workplace health or safety concern or violation. For more information about your rights, visit the Oregon OSHA website.