

OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES

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**PROGRAM DIRECTIVE**

Program Directive A-54  
Issued August 10, 1979  
Revised May 29, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Aisles and Passageways: Appropriately Marked Aisles and Passageways

**AFFECTED STANDARDS/**

**DIRECTIVES:** [Division 2/N, Material Handling and Storage](#)  
[Division 2/D, Walking-Working Surfaces](#)

**PURPOSE:** To provide interpretation of “appropriately marked” as it applies to permanent aisles and passageways in fixed workplaces where mechanical handling equipment is used on dirt floors or floors that are covered by sand or fine dusts due to ongoing daily operations.

**BACKGROUND:** 1910.176(a) has been interpreted to mean aisles and passageways must be marked by painted floor lines or floor marking tape. The intent of “appropriately marked” is not to restrict the markings to one method only. It would be impractical to paint lines on dirt floors or floors that have continuous concentrations of sand or other dusts. These conditions may exist in such industries as grain handling, foundries, recycling operations (metal, paper, and plastic), forest and furniture products, motor winding facilities, etc.

**ACTION:** Painted lines and floor marking tape remain the most feasible method of marking aisles and passageways because both can last several years without maintenance or repainting. Other appropriate methods such as, but not limited to marking pillars, powder stripping, flags, traffic cones, or barrels are acceptable when the training programs for vehicle operators and employees include the recognition of such markings.

Such appropriate methods are not to be used in place of applicable requirements under 1910.22(a) when it is feasible for employers to maintain floors in a clean condition, or other standards that require appropriate housekeeping measures. See Oregon OSHA [Program Directive A-268](#) on combustible dust for additional information.

**EFFECTIVE**

**DATE:** This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.

**History:** Issued 8-10-1979 Revised 3-9-2001, 1-22-2013 and 5-29-2018