

SAFETY Checklist

Completed By:

Location:

Date Completed:

Walking and Working Surfaces: Stairways (General Industry)

Instructions: This checklist is intended to help you identify potential hazards in your workplace. The questions are based on applicable Federal OSHA standards. Keep in mind that additional state and local regulations may apply, depending upon your location. Please select one answer for each question. You can click in the box if completing this form on your computer or mobile device. If you select “no,” you should investigate further to determine what corrective action may be needed to address the hazard. You can review the specific OSHA Standards outlined below at www.osha.gov/law-regs.html. Choose “General Industry.”

1910.21 Scope and Definitions

Stairway (stairs) means risers and treads that connect one level with another, and includes any landings and platforms in between those levels. Stairways include standard, spiral, alternating tread-type, and ship stairs.

Alternating tread-type stair means a type of stairway consisting of a series of treads that usually are attached to a center support in an alternating manner such that an employee typically does not have both feet on the same level while using the stairway.

Ship stair (ship ladder) means a stairway that is equipped with treads, stair rails, and open risers, and has a slope that is between 50 and 70 degrees from the horizontal.

Spiral stairs means a series of treads attached to a vertical pole in a winding fashion, usually within a cylindrical space.

Standard stairs means a fixed or permanently installed stairway - ship, spiral, and alternating tread-type stairs are not considered standard stairs.

1910.25(a) Application

This section covers all stairways (including standard, spiral, ship, and alternating tread-type stairs), except for stairs serving floating roof tanks, stairs on scaffolds, stairs designed into machines or equipment, and stairs on self-propelled motorized equipment.

	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
1	Are handrails, stair rail systems, and guardrail systems provided in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.28?	1910.25(b)(1)			
2	Is the vertical clearance above any stair tread to any overhead obstruction at least 6 feet, 8 inches, as measured from the leading edge of the tread? NOTE: Spiral stairs must have a minimum headroom above spiral stair treads of at least 6 feet, 6 inches, measured from the leading edge of the tread.	1910.25(b)(2)			
3	Do stairs have uniform riser heights and tread depths between landings?	1910.25(b)(3)			

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Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
4	Are stairway landings and platforms at least the width of the stair and at least 30 inches in depth, as measured in the direction of travel?			
5	When a door or a gate opens directly on a stairway, is a platform provided and does the swing of the door or gate not reduce the platform's effective usable depth to less than 20 inches for platforms installed before January 17, 2017 or less than 22 inches for platforms installed on or after January 17, 2017?			
6	Can each stair support at least five times the normal anticipated live load, but never less than a concentrated load of 1,000 pounds applied at any point?			
7	Are standard stairs used to provide access from one walking-working surface to another when operations necessitate regular and routine travel between levels, including access to operating platforms for equipment. NOTE: Winding stairways may be used on tanks and similar round structures when the diameter of the tank or structure is at least 5 feet.			
8	Are spiral, ship, or alternating tread-type stairs used only when the employer can demonstrate that it is not feasible to provide standard stairs?			
9	When used are spiral, ship, or alternating tread-type stairs installed, used, and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions?			
10	Are standard stairs installed at angles between 30 to 50 degrees from the horizontal?			
11	Do standard stairs have a maximum riser height of 9.5 inches? NOTE: This requirement does not apply to standard stairs installed prior to January 17, 2017. Those stairs are in compliance if they meet the dimension requirements specified in Table D-1 (Stairway Rise and Tread Dimensions) or they use a combination that achieves the 30 to 50 degrees from the horizontal requirement.			

	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
12	Do standard stairs have a minimum tread depth of 9.5 inches? NOTE: This requirement does not apply to standard stairs installed prior to January 17, 2017. Those stairs are in compliance if they meet the dimension requirements specified in Table D-1 (Stairway Rise and Tread Dimensions) or they use a combination that achieves the 30 to 50 degrees from the horizontal requirement.	1910.25(c)(3)			
13	Do standard stairs have a minimum width of 22 inches between vertical barriers?	1910.25(c)(4)			
14	Do spiral stairs have a minimum clear width of 26 inches?	1910.25(d)(1)			
15	Do spiral stairs have a maximum riser height of 9.5 inches?	1910.25(d)(2)			
16	Do spiral stairs have a minimum headroom above spiral stair treads of at least 6 feet, 6 inches measured from the leading edge of the tread?	1910.25(d)(3)			
17	Do spiral stairs have a minimum tread depth of 7.5 inches measured at a point 12 inches from the narrower edge?	1910.25(d)(4)			
18	Do spiral stairs have a uniform tread size?	1910.25(d)(5)			
19	Are ship stairs installed at a slope of 50 to 70 degrees from the horizontal?	1910.25(e)(1)			
20	Do ship stairs have open risers with a vertical rise between tread surfaces of 6.5 to 12 inches?	1910.25(e)(2)			
21	Do ship stairs have minimum tread depth of 4 inches?	1910.25(e)(3)			
22	Do ship stairs have a minimum tread width of 18 inches?	1910.25(e)(4)			
23	Do alternating tread-type stairs have a series of treads installed at a slope of 50 to 70 degrees from the horizontal?	1910.25(f)(1)			
24	Do alternating tread-type stairs have a distance between handrails of 17 to 24 inches?	1910.25(f)(2)			
25	Do alternating tread-type stairs have minimum tread depth of 8.5 inches?	1910.25(f)(3)			

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	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
26	Do alternating tread-type stairs have open risers if the tread depth is less than 9.5 inches?	1910.25(f)(4)			
27	Do alternating tread-type stairs have a minimum tread width of 7 inches measured at the leading edge of the tread (i.e., nosing)?	1910.25(f)(5)			

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