



# OSHA Compliance Checklist

## Fixed Ladders (1910.27)

	O.K.	Action Needed
<b>Specific Features</b>		
1. Do all rungs have a minimum diameter of:		
a. Three-fourths of an inch for metal ladders?		
b. One and one-eighths inch for wooden ladders?		
2. Is the distance between rungs less than one foot and uniform in spacing the length of the ladder?		
3. Is the minimum clear length of rungs at least 16 inches?		
4. Are all rungs or steps free of splinters, sharp edges, burrs or hazardous projections?		
5. Are the rungs of individual-rung ladders designed so that the foot cannot slide off the end?		
6. Do all side rails that are used for climbing provide an adequate gripping surface?		
a. Are they free of burrs, nicks, or splinters?		
7. Are all fastenings an integral part of the ladder design?		
8. Are all splices at least as safe as the original design?		
9. Are all ladders in good condition?		
10. Are all welds tight, free of cracks and sufficiently strong?		
<b>Protection From Deterioration</b>		
1. Are all ladders painted or otherwise adequately treated to resist corrosion?		
2. Do all individual-rung ladders descending into pits consist of at least one inch diameter rungs or are treated to resist corrosion or rust?		
3. Are all wood ladders used in areas where decay may occur treated with a preservative?		
<b>Clearance</b>		
1. Is at least 30 inches provided for climbing on the climbing side of the ladder?		
2. If without a cage, is at least 15 inches provided in each sideways direction from the centerline?		
3. Is at least 7 inches of clearance provided from the ladder to the nearest permanent object in back of the ladder (see exceptions for unavoidable obstacles)?		
4. Are all step-across distances from the nearest edge of the ladder to the nearest edge of equipment or structures less than 12 inches but not more than 2.5 inches?		
5. If provided, do all counterweighted hatch covers open a minimum of 60 degrees from the horizontal?		
6. Is the centerline distance from the edge of the rungs to the edge of the hatch opening on the climbing side at least 24 inches (offset wells) or 30 inches (straight wells)?		
7. Are all hazards at the openings within 30 inches of the centerline of the rungs guarded by a deflector plate?		
a. Is the deflector plate inclined at 60 degrees from the horizontal?		
<b>Special Requirements</b>		
1. Are cages or wells provided on ladders of more than 20 feet?		
2. Do all cages extend a minimum of 42 inches above the top of the landing or does other acceptable protection exist?		
3. Do all cages extend down the ladder to a point more than seven feet, but less than 8 feet above the base of the ladder?		
a. Is the bottom provided with a flare of at least 4 inches, or		
b. Is a portion of the ladder carried to the base?		

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4. Are cages at least 27 inches, but not more than 28 inches from the centerline of the rungs?		
5. Are all cages more than 27 inches in width?		
6. Are the insides of cages clear of all projections?		
7. Are vertical bars provided in cages at a maximum spacing of 40 degrees around the inside of the cage?		
8. Do all ladder wells have a clear width of at least 15 inches each way from the centerline of the ladder?		
9. Are smooth wall wells a minimum of 27 inches from the centerline of the rungs to the well wall on the climbing side of the ladder?		
10. Where obstructions exist on the climbing side of the ladder, are they a minimum of 30 inches from the centerline of the rungs?		

### Landing Platforms

1. If ladders are used to heights exceeding 20 feet, are landing platforms provided for each 30 feet of height (or fraction thereof)?		
2. Is each ladder section offset from the adjacent sections?		
3. If installation conditions require that adjacent sections be offset, are landing platforms provided for each offset?		
4. If a stepping-off distance to the nearest edge of a structure or equipment from a centerline of the rungs exceeds 12 inches is a landing platform provided?		
5. Is the stepping-off distance from platform to the nearest edge of a structure less than 2.5 inches?		
6. Are all landing platforms equipped with a standard railing and toeboard?		
7. Are all platforms arranged so as to give safe access to the ladder?		
8. Are all platforms not less than 24 inches in width and 30 inches in length?		
9. Is a rung provided at the level of the ladder served laterally by the ladder?		
10. Is the same ladder spacing used above and below the landing?		
11. Does the ladder extend at least 3.5 feet above each landing?		
12. Are the rungs omitted from through ladder extensions?		
a. For such ladders, is there more than 18, but less than 24 inches clearance between the rails?		
13. Are the rungs of side-step extensions extended above the 3.5 foot minimum extension?		
14. Are all grab bars spaced by a continuation of the rung spacing?		

### Pitch

1. Are all ladders more than 60 degrees from the horizontal (preferably more than 75)?		
2. Are no ladders with a pitch greater than 90 degrees of the horizontal?		

### Maintenance

1. Are all ladders in a safe condition?		
2. Are all ladders inspected regularly?		
3. Is the interval of inspection determined by the conditions of use?		