

## LADDER SAFETY PROCEDURES

### LADDER SPECIFICATIONS

The following is the OSHA 1910.26 specification for Portable Ladders:

- ♦ Rungs and steps shall be corrugated, knurled, dimpled, coated with skid resistant material, or otherwise treated to minimize the possibility of slipping.
- ♦ The bottoms of the four rails of a stepladder are to be supplied with insulating, non-slip material for the safety of the user.
- ♦ If ladders tip over, inspect ladders for side-rail dents or bends, or excessively dented rungs; check all runt-to-side rail connections; check hardware connections; check rivets for shear.
- ♦ If ladders are exposed to oil or grease, equipment should be cleaned for oil, grease, or other slippery materials. This can be done easily with a solvent or steam cleaning.
- ♦ There are no specific guidelines for maintenance other than visual inspection and the before-mentioned codes.
- ♦ All ladders will be inspected yearly in accordance with OSHA 1910.26. Any ladder that does not pass inspection is to be either removed from service or repaired.
- ♦ Metal ladders should never be used while working with electrical fixtures or devices. Wooden ladders should not be painted.

### General Ladder Safety

- ♦ All ladders must be securely placed, held, tied, or otherwise made secure to prevent slipping or falling.
- ♦ Avoid placing the ladder at an angle which is too extreme. The distance between the bottom of the ladder and the supporting point must be approximately one fourth of the ladder length.
- ♦ A ladder shall be used when performing overhead work that cannot be safely performed from floor level. Do not stand on boxes, chairs, desks, bookcases, radiators, or makeshift supports.
- ♦ Ladders should not be placed in front of doors or directly around any corner without proper warning signs in each approaching walkway.
- ♦ Only one person can be on the ladder at one time. If two employees are required, a second ladder must be used. Never splice two ladders together to form a longer one. Never use ladders as scaffold platforms.
- ♦ The maximum height a person should climb on the ladder is the third step from the top. Make sure stepladder legs are fully spread while in use. When working on a step ladder over ten feet high (With the exception of a platform ladder), the ladder must be held by another person.
- ♦ When ascending or descending ladders, use both hands (free of other objects) and face the ladder. When dismounting from a ladder at an elevated position (as at a roof), make sure that the ladder side rails extend at least three feet above the dismount position, or that grab bars are present.
- ♦ Do not place hand tools on a ladder at any time. Carry all hand tools in an appropriate holster.