

MSA FACILITIES SAFETY AND HEALTH INSPECTION PROGRAM

Portable and Fixed Ladders



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Portable and Fixed Ladders

At the completion of this unit you shall be able to:

1. Utilize section H of the Safety and Health Hazard Inspection Program Checklist to identify compliant and non-compliant safety behaviors.
2. Identify areas of concern requiring immediate action to mitigate or prevent a possible injury.

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Portable and Fixed Ladders

- Section H of the checklist contains up to 10 items. Let's take a closer look at these.

MSA GENERAL INDUSTRY-BASED SAFETY AND HEALTH
HAZARD INSPECTION CHECKLIST

No.	Inspection Observations	Compliant?	See Comments (indicate with X)
		Y•N•N/A	
7	Recycling containers are present, used and emptied on a regular basis.		
8	Other.		
G FIXED STAIRWAYS, LANDINGS, and RAMPS			
1	Stairs unobstructed and in good repair.		
2	Railings and handrails provided on open sides and properly maintained.		
3	Riser height is uniform and steps/landings are slip resistant.		
4	Other.		
H PORTABLE and FIXED LADDERS			
1	Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.		
2	Defective ladders are removed from service.		
3	Ladder rungs are clean and free from oils, mud, and grease.		
4	Portable ladders (including rolling ladder/platform) are provided with safety feet.		
5	Ladder landings have railings and toe boards.		
6	Portable ladders set up for access extend at least 3 feet above landings and parapets.		
7	Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.		
8	Employees working from portable ladders at heights exposing them to a fall of 6 feet or greater are using an approved Fall Protection Work Permit (FPWP).		
9	Stepladders less than 6 feet in length/size are used only where necessary.		
10	Other.		
I MEANS OF EGRESS			
1	Exits and exit routes are clearly visible and clear of obstructions.		
2	Exterior exit doors are non-locking in the direction of egress.		
3	Non-exit doorways that may be confused as an exit are marked "NOT AN EXIT."		
4	Exterior exit discharge areas are clean and unobstructed.		
5	Winter snow/ice hazards removed where employees enter/exit.		
6	Other.		
J POWERED PLATFORMS, MANLIFTS, and VEHICLE MOUNTED WORK PLATFORMS			
1	Platforms in use are current with periodic maintenance, inspection, and testing.		
2	Guard rails and toe boards are adequate.		
3	Fall protection/Personal Protective Equipment provided, used and maintained.		

Portable and Fixed Ladders

1. Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.
2. Defective ladders are removed from service.
3. Ladder rungs are clean and free from oils, mud, and grease.
4. Portable ladders (including rolling ladder/platform) are provided with safety feet.
5. Ladder landings have railings and toe boards.
6. Portable ladders set up for access extend at least 3 feet above landings and parapets.
7. Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.
8. Employees working from portable ladders at heights exposing them to a fall of 6 feet or greater are using an approved Fall Protection Work Permit (FPWP).
9. Stepladders less than 6 feet in length/size are used only where necessary.
10. Other.

Portable and Fixed Ladders

1. Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.
- Ladders are to be inspected in accordance with Facility Practices.
 - This means that they are inspected both prior to use by the user but also on an annual basis by a competent person.
 - This annual inspection is denoted by a tag on the portable ladder



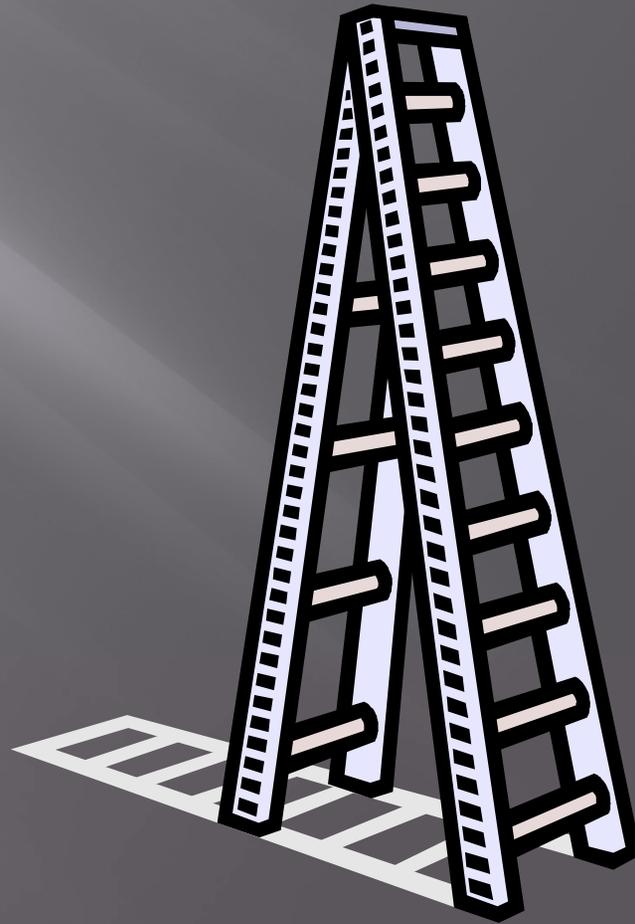
Portable and Fixed Ladders

1. Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.
- Please note that the formal ladder inspection process using the inspection label does not apply to short (less than 33" to the top step) ladders or platforms.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

1. Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.
 - A compliant rating on this item indicates that the ladder has been inspected in the last cycle as well as by the user prior to use.
 - This also indicates that the ladder is in safe condition.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

1. Portable and fixed ladders are inspected and maintained in safe condition.
 - ▣ A non compliant rating means that the ladder either has not been inspected or is being used but not in good repair.
 - ▣ In this case it must be taken out of service.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

2. Defective ladders are removed from service.

- A compliant rating means that the ladder is taken out of service and is repaired or destroyed.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

2. Defective ladders are removed from service.

- ▣ A non compliant rating means that the ladder is not taken out of service and is either used anyway or not tagged to be repaired or destroyed.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

3. Ladder rungs are clean and free from oils, mud, and grease.
 - A compliant rating means that the treads of the ladder are intact, not worn, and the treads do not have oil, grease, or other material on them that can cause a slip.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

3. Ladder rungs are clean and free from oils, mud, and grease.
- A non compliant rating means that the treads of the ladder have issues. They are not intact, worn, or the treads have oil, grease, or other material on them that can cause a slip.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

4. Portable ladders (including rolling ladder/platform) are provided with safety feet.
- A compliant rating means that the ladder has safety feet if it was designed to do so and that they are in good shape.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

4. Portable ladders (including rolling ladder/platform) are provided with safety feet.
- A non compliant rating means that the ladder does not have safety feet if it was designed to do so or they are in poor shape (worn/broken tread, etc.).



Portable and Fixed Ladders

5. Ladder landings have railings and toe boards.
- A compliant rating means that the fixed ladder landings have railings and tie boards.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

5. Ladder landings have railings and toe boards.

- ▣ A non compliant rating means that there are no landings that have railings and toe boards.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

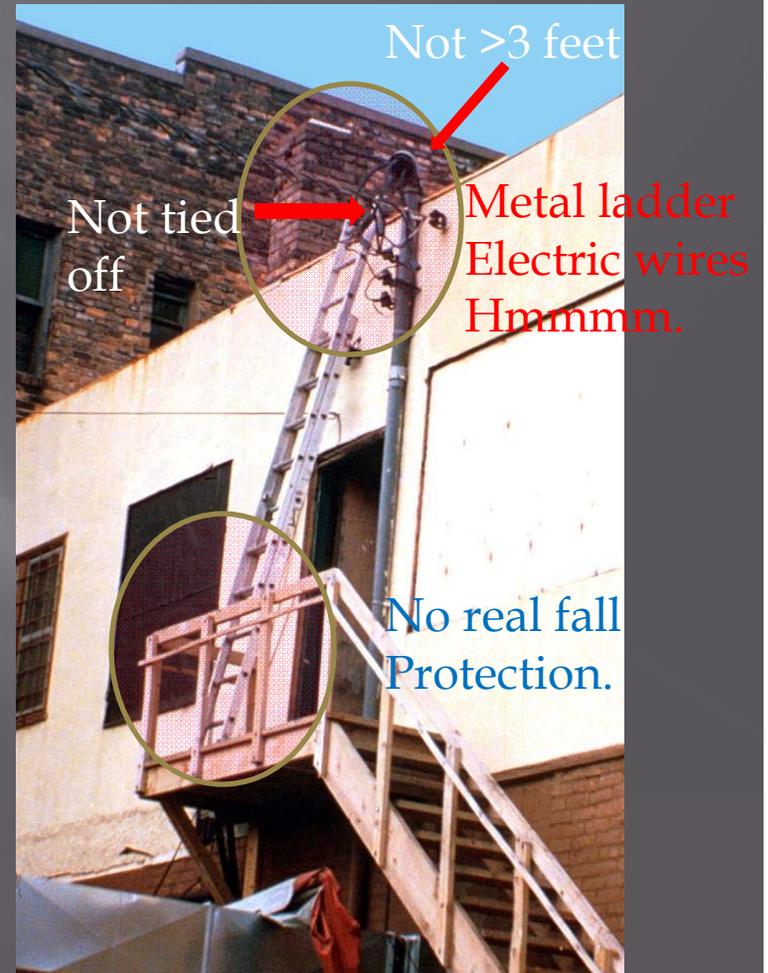
6. Portable ladders set up for access extend at least 3 feet above landings and parapets.
- A compliant rating means that the portable straight ladder extends at least 3' above the level access.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

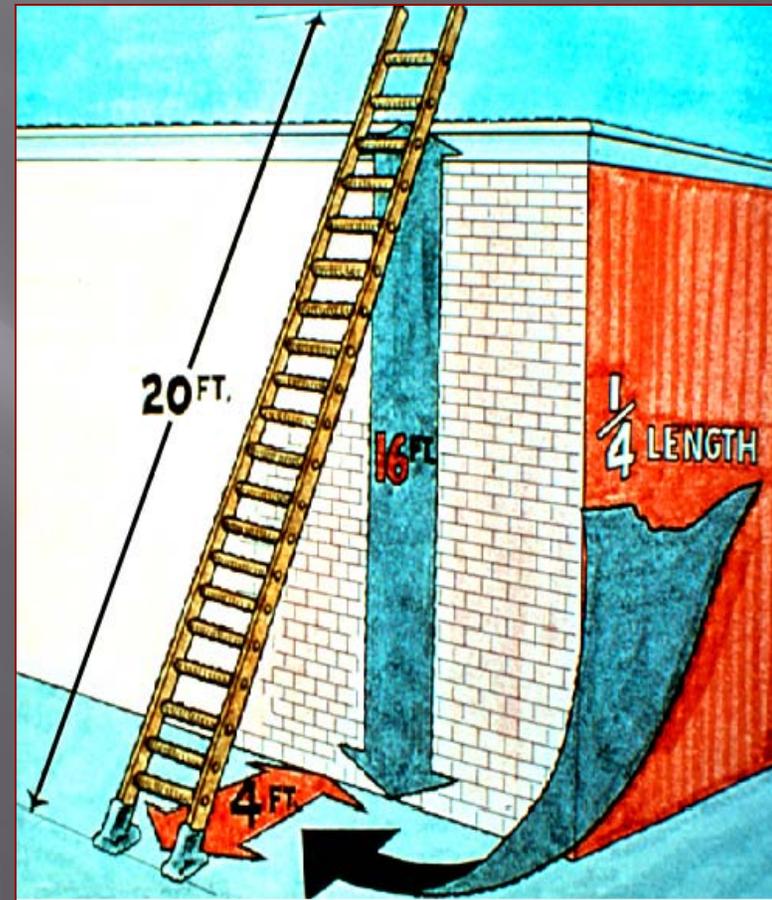
6. Portable ladders set up for access extend at least 3 feet above landings and parapets.

- ▣ A non compliant rating means that the ladder does not extend 3' above the level access.
- ▣ (There are numerous problems in this picture.)



Portable and Fixed Ladders

7. Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.
 - A compliant rating means that the portable straight ladder is at an 4:1 angle. That is for every 4 feet of height it is expected to reach, the base is 1 foot away from the structure.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

7. Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.

- ▣ A non compliant rating means that the straight ladder does not have a 4:1 angle.
- ▣ (The problem is that if the ladder is laid out in this manner the weight forces of a worker can very easily cause it to collapse.)



Portable and Fixed Ladders

7. Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.
 - ▣ The problem here is that the angle of the ladder is $<4:1$. This creates a situation where this ladder may be unstable and easily fall over.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

7. Non self-supporting portable ladders are being positioned at a proper 4-to-1 angle.
 - ▣ Sometimes this can result in an entirely different set of hazards.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

8. Employees working from portable ladders at heights exposing them to a fall of 6 feet or greater are using an approved Fall Protection Work Permit (FPWP).
- Normally, working from a ladder doesn't require fall protection provided that the worker maintains a "3 points of contact" with the ladder (one hand and two feet in contact) and follow the "Belt Buckle" rule where their body (belt buckle) stays within the uprights of the ladder.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

8. Employees working from portable ladders at heights exposing them to a fall of 6 feet or greater are using an approved Fall Protection Work Permit (FPWP).

- ▣ A compliant rating means that if the worker must use both hands or overreach the ladder they must have some type of fall protections in place.
- ▣ In some locations this will also include someone to hold the ladder steady



Portable and Fixed Ladders

8. Employees working from portable ladders at heights exposing them to a fall of 6 feet or greater are using an approved Fall Protection Work Permit (FPWP).

- ▣ A non compliant rating means that the workers are in a situation working from a ladder and they need to use fall protection but aren't.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

9. Stepladders less than 6 feet in length/size are used only where necessary.
- A compliant rating indicates that all ladders being used (or going to be used) are longer than 6 feet.



Portable and Fixed Ladders

9. Stepladders less than 6 feet in length/size are used only where necessary.

- A non compliant rating means that either a worker was seen using a ladder that was less than 6 feet or a ladder that was less than 6 feet was in the facility.
- You may ask why is this even a requirement?
- The main reason is that a ladder that is less than 6 feet will require you to either;
 - Stand on the top two steps
 - or –
 - Put the ladder on something unsafe (or something like that).



Portable and Fixed Ladders

- If at any time you have any questions about how to fill out the form or about the items on the form please contact your project safety group.

**MSA GENERAL INDUSTRY-BASED SAFETY AND HEALTH
HAZARD INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

Facility:		Facility Representative:	
Date:		Team Member:	
Total Items Reviewed:		Team Member:	
Total Non-Compliant Items:		Team Member:	

No.	Inspection Observations	Compliant?	See Comments (indicate with X)
		Y•N•N/A	
A	FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION <i>(All issues must be observed as applicable see note 2)</i>		
1	Emergency Lights - Each unit must be operable when tested.		
2	Portable Fire Extinguishers (PFE) - Each unit is properly mounted, an inspection tag is in place and reflects through previous month, the pressure gauge is in the "green" zone (where applicable).		
3	PFE is not obstructed, is visible, and the seal is not broken.		
4	Sprinkler Clearance - Clearance between the sprinkler deflector and the top of any storage is 18 inches or greater.		
5	Fire Riser Pressure Gauge Inspection - Inspect gauges to verify pressure to the building and pressure held in the fire system. Typically both gauges will have similar pressure readings.		
6	Fire Risers - Access to fire system sprinkler risers and other system components must be unobstructed.		
7	Fire Riser Valve Inspection - Check all seals, position and supervision for broken seals or possible tampering.		
8	Post Indicating Valve Inspection - This valve will be located outside of the facility. It must be verified that the window on the side of the valve reads "OPEN".		
9	Exit Signs - Exit signs with an internal lighting source must be checked to ensure all lamps are functional. - Exit signs that use Tritium must be observed that they have not been damaged, all applicable labels are present, the sign has not expired, and it is not covered with another sign.		
10	Fire Doors - Identify that fire doors operate freely and latch securely upon closure. Fire doors must not be propped open.		
11	Ceiling Tiles - Where automatic sprinklers are installed drop ceiling tiles are in place. Missing tiles slow response of fire suppression sprinklers.		
12	Manual alarm stations are easily identified and readily accessible.		
13	Other.		
B	GENERAL SAFE BEHAVIORS		
1	Employees are taking the necessary safety precautions for the work being performed.		
2	Work is being performed such that collocated employees in the area are not exposed to occupational hazards or unsafe conditions.		

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Portable and Fixed Ladders

Thank you for your time
and desire to help us have
a safer workplace