

## **VII. LADDERS, PLATFORMS, AND BARRICADES**

### **A. Ladders**

Portable, straight, or extension ladders shall be used only for their designed purpose. Before using, they should be inspected carefully for any visual defects.

All straight or extension ladders shall be equipped with approved safety feet. Where safety feet do not overcome the hazard of slipping, the ladder should be secured by other adequate means.

Ladders shall be inspected periodically and removed from service if found defective and shall be destroyed if proper repairs cannot be made.

When ladders are used near a door or aisle through which there is traffic, warning signs shall be set up or other appropriate precautions taken to prevent potential accidents.

Ladders, improperly used, are responsible for many accidents. When working with ladders, the following shall be observed:

1. A ladder should be placed so that the horizontal distance of the base to the vertical plane of the support is approximately 1/4 the ladder length between supports. (Example: A 12 foot ladder is placed so the bottom is three (3) feet away from the object against which the top is leaning.)
2. If a straight ladder is to be used on a slippery surface or when there is any probability of the ladder tipping or slipping, the ladder shall be held in place by a person at the foot of the ladder and/or by adequately securing the top of the ladder in place.
3. When going up or down a ladder, employees shall face the ladder and have free use of both hands for climbing.
4. Bulky or heavy materials, that would interfere with the use of the hands or that overburden the ladder, shall be raised and lowered by block and tackle or ropes.
5. Employees shall not slide down ladders.
6. Broken or weak ladders, or ladders with missing rungs, shall not be used.
7. Two (2) ladders shall not be spliced together; only approved type extension ladders shall be used when greater length is required.

8. Ladders used near live electric circuits shall not be made of metal nor have metal rung braces, trusses, or struts, due to the danger of short circuits or accidental contacts with live parts of the circuit.
9. Step ladders shall be fully opened before being used.
10. Wooden ladders shall never be painted. Paint hides the grain of the wood and any defects.
11. Ladders shall not be used in horizontal position.
12. Employees must not work or stand on either of the top two (2) rungs or steps of any ladder. They shall avoid overreaching in any direction.
13. Except for safety platform ladders, employees shall not work from the top steps of a step ladder.
14. Ladders shall not be left in an upright position against any supporting object when not intended for immediate use. A ladder should be stored in such a manner to provide ease of access and inspection. If stored in a horizontal position, the ladder should be supported at a sufficient number of points to avoid sagging.
15. Tools or equipment shall not be left on ladders or ladder platforms.

**B. Portable Work Platforms**

Portable work platforms shall be well constructed and maintained in a safe condition. Adequate guardrails shall be provided and used.

Platforms with castors or wheels shall be equipped with safe locking devices.

No one shall be allowed to ride on a work platform between work locations.

**C. Barricades**

Barricades shall be used to ensure the safety of others when hazardous conditions are created by the work performed, such as material dropping, flying or spraying, and uneven or slippery footing.