

Safe Access Guidelines

(Revised 2/2005)

The City of Winston-Salem's Inspection Division is concerned about the safety of its inspectors in the performance of their duties. In order to eliminate their exposure to unsafe conditions, we are requesting your cooperation in providing safe means to access job sites. As the contractor, you have direct control over the condition of your job site and your assistance is necessary to expedite the inspection process. Listed below are safety guidelines mandated by OSHA in the construction standard. These guidelines are designed to protect all individuals at the job site. This list contains hazards that are commonly found at job sites and additional safety measures may be necessary to eliminate hazards which directly affect the safety of inspectors. We support our inspectors in being safe on the job.

1. *A clear path must be provided inside and outside the building to allow inspectors access to areas and equipment which require inspection. Passageways must be kept clear of debris and materials.* **OSHA 1926.25 & .34**

2. If stairs have four or more risers, a 36-inch high handrail must be provided on at least one side. *If the stairway has an open side, the hand rail must be positioned on the open side.* **OSHA 1926.1052(c)(1)**

3. Temporary stair treads must be a true one inch thick wood or other solid material and extend the full width and depth of the tread. An examples: two inch by ten inch boards. *(No OSB or plywood stair treads except pre-manufactured stairs)* **OSHA 1926.1052(b)(3)**

4. Raised platforms, *balconies* or working/walking surface with an open side six feet or more above the adjacent surface below must have a 42-inch (+/-3") high guardrail on each open side. Guardrails must consist of a top-rail and a mid-rail, screen, mesh, vertical members or equivalent structural members. **OSHA 1926.501(b)**

5. *Walk-boards* over open stoops *(when used as an entry point)* must be of substantial solid materials and be so constructed to support expected loads and must not fall due to deflection or movement. *They must be secured by nails or other means to prevent movement or displacement.* Walk-boards must meet the following requirements:

- 36-inches wide; and
 - *Provided with guardrails on each side when the height above the bottom of the stoop is six feet or more*
- OSHA 1926.651**

6. *Ramps used to gain access to elevated surfaces must be constructed of two or more (minimum 36" wide) structural members connected together to prevent displacement. The structural members must be uniform thickness and substantial enough to handle*

anticipated loads. Cleats must be provided to prevent slipping. Ramps must be sloped so that a person may walk up or down in an upright manner. A guardrail system must be provided on each open side six feet or more above the adjacent surface below. **OSHA 1926.501(b)(6) and 1926.651(c)(2)**

7. *Ladders must meet ANSI Standards, be in good repair, and be rated for a minimum of 300 pounds. Ladders must have nonconductive side rails when used near exposed energized electrical equipment.* **OSHA 1926.1053**

- *Straight or extension ladders used to access a landing surface must extend a minimum of three feet above the landing surface. The ladder must be placed on a level surface or secured to prevent accidental displacement.*
- *When a step ladder must be used to gain access to an attic, the top of the ladder must be no more than one foot below the ceiling or rafter.*

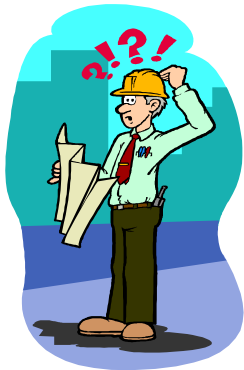
8. *Scaffolding must meet OSHA standards and be properly installed.* **OSHA 1926.451**

9. Pull down and disappearing stairs must be in good repair, properly installed, secured and in safe working order.

10. Crawlspace must be clear of debris and unsafe conditions that may cause injury. In *pre-existing construction* if the doorway or clearance between joists and earth is less than 18-inches, the inspector may request the presence of a contractor representative or homeowner during the inspection.

If you have any questions please call the appropriate number listed as follows:

Building Inspections	727-2408
Electrical Inspections	727-2365
Mechanical Inspections (Plumbing & Heating)	727-2382
Asst. Superintendent	727-2422
Zoning Inspections	727-2830
Asst. Superintendent	727-8016



City of Winston-Salem
Inspections Division
100 E. First Street, Suite 328
Winston-Salem, NC 27101



Safe Access Guidelines