

## WAC 296-876-400 Portable Ladder Use.

### Summary

**Your responsibility:** To use portable ladders safely.

<b>You must meet the requirements...</b>	<b>in this section:</b>
Designed use	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40005</a>
Workplace activities or traffic	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40010</a>
Support	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40015</a>
Set-up	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40020</a>
Climbing and descending	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40025</a>
Getting on and off ladders at upper levels	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40030</a>
Exposed electrical hazards	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40035</a>
Persons on ladders	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40040</a>
Multisection ladders	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40045</a>
Self-supporting ladders	<a href="#">WAC 296-876-40050</a>

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-400, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-400, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### WAC 296-876-40005 Designed use.

(1) You must use ladders only for their intended purpose.

*Note: Unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer, do not use a ladder as a:*

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>Brace.</i>           | 5. <i>Gangway.</i>        |
| 2. <i>Skid.</i>            | 6. <i>Platform.</i>       |
| 3. <i>Lever.</i>           | 7. <i>Scaffold plank.</i> |
| 4. <i>Guy or gin pole.</i> | 8. <i>Material hoist.</i> |

- (2) You must make sure not to overload ladders. Do not exceed either the:
  - (a) Maximum intended load; or
  - (b) Manufacturer's rated capacity.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40005, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40005, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### **WAC 296-876-40010 Workplace activities or traffic.**

- (1) You must protect ladders that are set up in a location where they could be displaced by workplace activities or traffic by either:
  - (a) Securing the ladder to prevent accidental displacement; or
  - (b) Using a barricade to keep the activities or traffic away from the ladder.
- (2) You must protect ladders that are set up in front of doors that open towards the ladder by doing at least one of the following:
  - (a) Block the door open.
  - (b) Lock the door.
  - (c) Guard the door to keep it from opening into the ladder.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40010, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40010, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### **WAC 296-876-40015 Support.**

- (1) You must place the ladder either:
  - (a) With a secure footing on a firm, level support surface; or
  - (b) Secure the ladder to prevent accidental displacement.
- (2) You must make sure a ladder is not placed on ice, snow, or other slippery surface unless the ladder is prevented from accidental displacement by either:
  - (a) Securing it; or
  - (b) Providing the ladder with slip-resistant feet.

*Note: Slip-resistant feet are not a substitute for care in placing, lashing, or holding a ladder that is used on a slippery surface.*

- (3) You must make sure ladders are not placed on boxes, barrels, or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.

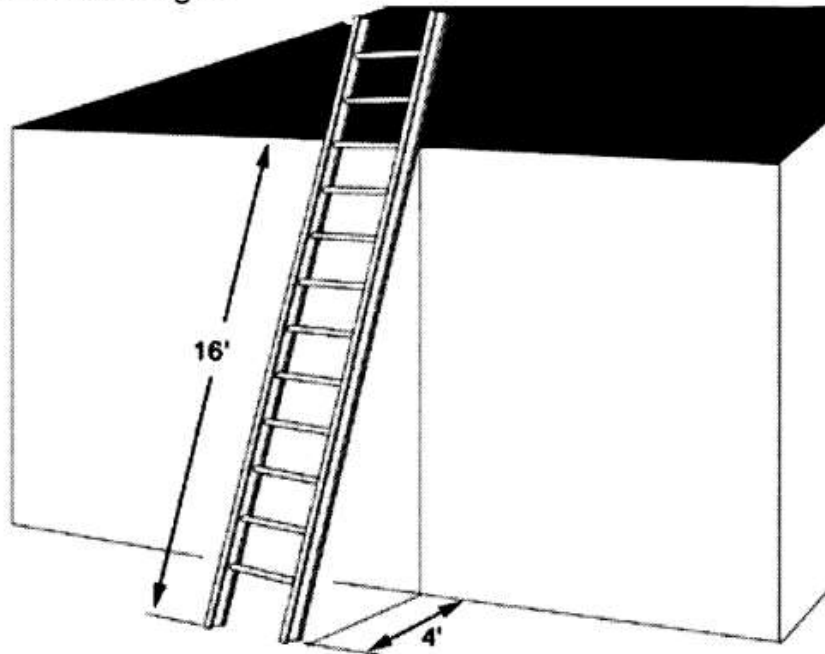
- (4) You must place a straight ladder so the side rails are equally supported by the top support, unless the ladder is equipped with a single support attachment.
- (5) You must make sure the top support of the ladder is reasonably rigid and able to support the load.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40015, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40015, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### WAC 296-876-40020 Set-up.

- (1) You must set up non-self-supporting ladders at a safe angle. The ladder is set at the proper angle when the horizontal distance from the top support to the foot of the ladder is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  the working length of the ladder.
- (2) You must set up job-made ladders with spliced side rails so that the horizontal distance from the top support to the foot of the ladder is not greater than  $\frac{1}{8}$  the working length of the ladder.

**Note:**  
Safe ladder angle.



[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40020, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40020, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### **WAC 296-876-40025 Climbing and descending.**

- (1) You must have both hands free to hold on to the ladder.
- (2) You must face the ladder when climbing or descending.
- (3) You must keep ladders free of oil, grease, or other slippery materials.
- (4) You must keep the area around the top and bottom of ladders clear.
- (5) You must make sure single-rail ladders are not used.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40025, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40025, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]

### **WAC 296-876-40030 Getting on and off ladders at upper levels.**

- (1) You must make sure a ladder used to access an upper level has the side rails extended at least 3 feet (0.9 m) above the landing surface if the ladder length permits.
- (2) You must do the following if a ladder used to access an upper level is not long enough to obtain a 3-foot side rail extension above the landing surface:
  - (a) Secure the ladder at the top to a rigid support that will not deflect.
  - (b) Provide a grasping device, such as a grab-rail, to assist in mounting and dismounting the ladder.
  - (c) Make sure the ladder deflection under a load would not, by itself, cause it to slip off its support.
- (3) You must make sure, if two or more separate ladders are used to reach an elevated work area, that the ladders are offset with a platform or landing between them.

***EXEMPTION:***

*A platform or landing is not required when a portable ladder is used to reach a fixed ladder on structures such as utility towers and billboards where the bottom of the fixed ladder is elevated to limit access.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.060. 14-09-095 (Order 13-10) § 296-876-40030, filed 04/22/14, effective 07/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-20-068, § 296-876-40030, filed 10/4/05, effective 1/1/06.]