

WAC 296-307-25015 What protection must an employer provide for open-sided floors, platforms, and runways?

(1) Every open-sided floor or platform 4 feet or more above an adjacent floor or ground level must be guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent according to WAC 296-307-25027 on all open sides, except where there is an entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder. The railing must have a toeboard wherever, beneath the open sides:

- (a) A person can pass; or
- (b) There is moving machinery; or
- (c) Materials falling onto equipment would create a hazard.

(2) Every runway must be guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent according to WAC 296-307-25027) on all open sides that are 4 feet or more above floor or ground level. Wherever tools, machine parts, or materials are likely to be used on the runway, a toeboard must also be provided on each exposed side. Runways used exclusively for special purposes (such as oiling, shafting, or filling tank cars) may have the railing on one side omitted when operating conditions require, if the hazard is minimized by using a runway at least 18 inches wide. Where people entering runways become exposed to machinery, electrical equipment, or hazards other than from falling, additional guarding may be necessary.

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(3) Regardless of height, all open-sided floors, walkways, platforms, or runways above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, pickling or galvanizing tanks, degreasing units, or similar hazardous equipment, must be guarded with a standard railing and toeboard.

(4) Tools and loose materials must not be left on overhead platforms and scaffolds.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17.040 RCW. 98-24-096 (Order 98-13), § 296-307-25015, filed 12/01/98, effective 03/01/99.

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WAC 296-307-25027 What are the requirements for railing dimensions? Standard railings must meet the following requirements:

(1) For wood railings:

- (a) The posts are of at least two inch by four inch nominal stock spaced six feet apart or less; and
- (b) The top and intermediate rails are of at least two inch by four inch nominal stock.
- (c) If the top rail is made of two right-angle pieces of 1-inch by 4-inch stock, posts are spaced on 8-foot centers, with 2-inch by 4-inch intermediate rail.

(2) For pipe railings:

- (a) The posts and top and intermediate railings are at least 1-1/2 inches nominal diameter (outside diameter); and
- (b) The posts are spaced on centers of eight feet or less.

(3) For structural steel railings:

- (a) The posts and top and intermediate rails are of 2-inch by 2-inch by 3/8-inch angles or other metal shapes of equivalent bending strength; and
- (b) The posts are spaced on centers of eight feet or less.

(4) Post anchors and framing parts for all railings are constructed so that the completed structure can withstand a load of at least two hundred pounds applied in any direction at any point on the top rail.

(5) Other types, sizes, and arrangements of railing construction that meet the following requirements are acceptable:

(a) The top rail is smooth;

(b) The top rail is between thirty-six and forty-two inches nominal above the floor, platform, runway, or ramp level;

(c) The railing is strong enough to withstand two hundred pounds of pressure on the top rail;

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(d) The railing provides protection between the top rail and the floor, platform, runway, ramp, or stair treads, equivalent to that of a standard intermediate rail;

(e) There are no overhanging rail ends unless the overhang does not create a hazard; such as baluster railings, scrollwork railings, or paneled railings.

Note: The dimensions specified are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wood Handbook, No. 72, 1955 (No. 1 (S4S) Southern Yellow Pine (Modulus of Rupture 7,400 psi)) for wood; ANSI G 41.5-1970, American National Standard Specifications for Structural Steel, for structural steel; and ANSI B 125.1-1970, American National Standard Specifications for Welded and Steamless Steel Pipe, for pipe.

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WAC 296-307-25030 What requirements apply to toeboards?

(1) Standard toeboard height is at least four inches nominal from its top edge to the level of the floor, platform, runway, or ramp. The toeboard must be securely fastened in place and with a maximum of 1/4 inch clearance above floor level. It must be made of any substantial material that is either solid or with openings that are a maximum of one inch in diameter.

(2) Where material is piled high enough that a standard toeboard does not provide protection, paneling from the floor to the intermediate rail, or to the top rail, must be provided.

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