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## **OSHA Revises Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems, Increases Penalties**

*OSHA finds that slips, trips, and falls constitute a significant risk. It is estimated that this final rule will prevent 29 fatalities and 5,842 lost-workday injuries annually.*

OSHA began revising several regulations since the start of 2016. Changes to the Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems regulation affects many of Cintar Inc.'s clients. We are currently providing corrective design engineering for several clients to meet compliance for this final rule. This article summarizes a few of the revisions that affect our clients the most.

OSHA issued the final rule revising and updating its general industry Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems on November 17, 2016. It was created to improve the general standards for consistency with the construction standards, reflect technological advances, and incorporate easier to understand plain language. The final rule became effective on January 17, 2017, with some compliance dates occurring after the effective date. This rule addresses fixed ladders, rope descent systems, and fall protection systems.

### **Intended Load Support**

Under the new rule, ladders are required to support their maximum intended load and four times the maximum load for mobile ladder stands and platforms.

Compliance Date: January 17, 2017.

### **Training**

Covers ensuring exposed workers are trained on fall hazards and the use of fall protection equipment.

Compliance Date: Within 6 months.

### **Itemized List of Affected Walking-Working Standards**

- ◇ Inspection of Walk-Working Surfaces (1910.22(d))
- ◇ Ladders (1910.23)
- ◇ Step Bolts and Manhole Steps (1910.24)
- ◇ Scaffold Requirements (1910.27(a))
- ◇ Rope Descent Systems, Certification of Anchorages (1910.27(b))
- ◇ Duty to have Fall Protection and Falling Object Protection (1910.28)
- ◇ Ladder Safety Systems (1910.28(b)(9))
- ◇ Phase-out "Qualified Climber" Exception in Outdoor Advertising (1910.28(b)(10))
- ◇ Fall Protection Systems and Falling Object Protection (1910.29)
- ◇ Training (1910.30)
- ◇ Personal Fall Protection System Performance and Use Requirements (1910.140)

*Effective Date: January 17, 2017*

*Compliance Date: Varies*

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# OSHA Revises Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems, Increases Penalties

## Permanent Anchorage Inspection and Certification

Requirement for inspecting and certifying permanent anchorages for rope descent systems.

Compliance Date: Within 1 year.

## Existing Fixed Ladders Extending Past 24 Feet

For fixed ladders that extend more than 24 feet (including outdoor advertising structures), the rule **phases in** ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems and **phases out** the use of cages or wells. Rung spacing and ladder clearances have changed.

Compliance Date:

Within 2 years for equipping existing ladders with a cage, well, personal fall arrest system or ladder safety system. Within 20 years to phase out the cages and wells with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems.



Ladder cages and wells will be completely phased out for existing ladders within 20 years.

| Type of Violation  | 2016 Penalty<br>Prior to Aug 1 | 2017 Penalty               |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Serious<br>Other-Than-Serious<br>Posting<br>Requirements | \$7,000 per<br>violation       | \$12,575 per<br>violation  |
| Failure to Abate<br>(per day beyond<br>abatement date)   | \$7,000                        | \$12,675                   |
| Willful or Repeated                                      | \$70,000 per<br>violation      | \$124,709 per<br>violation |

## New and Replacement Ladders Extending Past 24 Feet

Installing personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems on new fixed ladders over 24 feet and on replacement ladders/ladder sections, including fixed ladders on outdoor advertising structures.

Compliance Date: Within 2 years.

During 2016 OSHA penalties increased by nearly double. The penalties increased 78% effective August 1 and increased again for 2017. Contact Cintar to engineer corrective designs and help you avoid these hefty penalties.

Cintar Inc. performs Walking and Working Surface Inspections for many of our clients. Our Walking and Working Inspection Program consists of performing on-site inspections using engineers or competent design personnel who are familiar with OSHA, other regulatory agencies, and client standards. The reports present a detailed and documented listing of the findings, which is used as a baseline for future inspections, and a Repair Matrix that can be used as a guideline for any corrective actions that need to be performed or planned.

The inspections include a visual assessment for evidence of improperly installed or improperly secured grating or deck plates, deterioration of surfaces and structural supports, observations of floor penetrations, handrail, toeplate, ladders and stairs.



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