

ASSE Tech Brief



February 26, 2017

ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-2017: Background Materials

ASSE, as secretariat of the A1264 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC), coordinates the development of standards addressing safety requirements for workplace walking/working surfaces and their access.

ASSE has received many inquiries related to these standards, and due to these inquiries, we have put together a guide for those with interest.

Standard Title: ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-2017, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Walking/Working Surfaces and Their Access; Workplace Floor, Wall and Roof Openings; Stairs and Guardrails Systems*

SH&E professionals have used the A1264.1 standard since the 1960s in the form of the A12.1 and A64.1 standards. During the 1970s, these two standards were consolidated into one document, the A1264.1 standard. This standard(s) has history in excess of 50 years and is widely used/recognized in both the private and public sectors.

Past versions of ANSI A1264.1 include:

Standard Title: ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-2007, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*

Standard Title: ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-1995 (R2002), *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*

Standard Title: ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-1995, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*

Standard Title: ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-1989, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*

Scope Purpose and Application of the Standard

1.1 Scope. This standard sets forth safety requirements in industrial and workplace situations for protecting persons in areas/places where danger exists of persons or objects falling from elevated walking and work surfaces such as floor, roof or wall openings, platforms, runways, ramps, fixed stairs or roofs in normal, temporary and emergency conditions.

1.1.1 Excluded from this standard are: private residences; escalators; moving walks; floor openings occupied by elevators, manlifts, dumbwaiters, conveyors, machinery, containers; the loading and unloading areas of truck, railroad and marine docks; self-propelled motorized mobile equipment; mobile ladder stands and mobile work platforms; scaffolds used in the construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of buildings and structures; ladders and construction work areas; and marina and floating tank ladders.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum safety requirements for working and walking areas to provide reasonable safety of persons pursuing their foreseeable duties.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard apply to new and existing installations and workplace exposures to fall hazards.

1.3.2 Construction and installation of all walking and work surfaces, guardrail systems and all other protective measures shall be of materials and methods suitable for the environment of intended use.

E1.1 The scope of this document has application to more than industrial settings. It applies also to workplace settings used and occupied mainly by workers. For example, the document applies to stage areas in theaters as used by stage hands and performers (i.e., workers).

E1.1.1 Recognizing that the special safety requirements necessary for assembly occupancies may not be adequately covered by other codes or standards, this standard may provide the minimum safety performance requirements to protect the occupants. See ANSI/ASSE A10.18, *Safety Requirements for Temporary Floors, Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways and Other Unprotected Edges in Construction and Demolition Operations*.

E1.3.1 The requirements of this standard can be effectively applied during alterations of existing facilities or when major changes are made to work areas.

1.3.3 Falls which may cause injury can occur from any height. Employers shall complete a fall hazard assessment of all walking and work surfaces in order to determine the guarding necessary to prevent falls and injury. The requirements of this standard are minimum requirements and may not be sufficient for every installation. See ANSI/ASSE Z359.2, *Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program*, for a fall protection hierarchy or preferred order of control to eliminate or control fall hazards when designing fall protection solutions for both existing and new facilities.

1.3.4 Hazardous Location. Regardless of height, walking and work surfaces above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, open tanks and similar hazards, shall be protected in accordance with applicable standards to prevent falls into the hazard. See ANSI/ASSE Z359.2, *Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program*.

1.3.5 Order of Precedence. Applicable legal requirements (laws and governmental codes and regulations) supersede the requirements of this standard and shall be obeyed. Employers shall determine the applicable jurisdictional authorities and if application of this standard violates applicable legal requirements, then the violating requirements of this standard shall be waived.

E1.3.4 For more information about fall protection please review ANSI/ASSE Z359.1, *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components*.

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Links and information related to ANSI/ASSE American National Standards

- [Official Memorandum of Understanding Between OSHA & ANSI](#)
- [Office of Management & Budget Circular OMB-A119](#)
- [Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?](#)
- [Standards History Article](#)
- [Position Statement on Consensus Standards](#)
- [What's the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?](#)

Examples of OSHA Recognition

1. 1995 - 05/26/1995 - Handrail and railing clearance for runways (hangar catwalks).
 May 26, 1995 Mr. Scott Stratton Vice President Stratton, Inc. 2513 Deaton Street Lake Charles, LA 70601 Dear Mr. Stratton: This is in response to your September 8, 1994 letter requesting interpretation...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=21816

2. 1999 - 03/23/1999 - Dipping and Coating Operations. - 64:13897-13912 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910 [Docket No. S-022] RIN 1218-AB55 Dipping and Coating Operations AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13900

3. 2000 - 07/12/2000 - Open roof hatches should be protected; grab bars not required at hatch exits.

OSHA requirements are set by statute, standards and regulations. Our interpretation letters explain these requirements and how they apply to particular circumstances, but they cannot create additional...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=23740

4. 2001 - 01/18/2001 - Safety Standards for Steel Erection - 66:5317-5325

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1926 [Docket No. S-775] RIN No. 1218-AA65 Safety Standards for Steel Erection AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=16290

5. 2003 - 05/02/2003 - Walking and Working Surfaces; Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems) - 68:23527-23568

Part II Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910 Walking and Working Surfaces; Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems); Proposed Rule Docket...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=17819

6. Section 2 - II. Summary and Explanation of the Final Rule

II. Summary and Explanation of the Final Rule This section consists of five parts. Part 1 summarizes the comments received by OSHA on the three issues raised in the proposal. The issues are listed to...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=PREAMBLES&p_id=862

Historic Recognition of A12.1 Standard

1. 1910.261 - Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills.

1910.261(a)General requirements - 1910.261(a)(1)Application. This section applies to establishments where pulp, paper, and paperboard are manufactured and converted. This section does not apply to ...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9857

2. 1996 - 07/22/1996 - Miscellaneous Changes to General Industry and Construction Standards, Proposed Paperwork Collection, Comment Request for Coke Oven Emissions and Inorganic Arsenic - 61:37849-37865

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1926 [Docket No. S-778] Miscellaneous Changes to General Industry and Construction Standards; Proposed Paperwork...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13559

3. 1998 - 06/18/1998 - 29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1926 Standards Improvement (Miscellaneous Changes) for General Industry and Construction Standards, Paperwork Collection for Coke Oven Emissions and Inorganic Arsenic, Final Rule. - 63:33450-33469

Part II Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1926 Standards Improvement (Miscellaneous Changes) for General Industry and Construction Standards...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13809

4. Section 3 - III. Summary and Explanation

III. Summary and Explanation In this section, OSHA explains the changes made to each regulatory provision being removed, revised or redesignated. First, the changes that were proposed in the July 19...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=PREAMBLES&p_id=830

5. 1995 - 05/26/1995 - Handrail and railing clearance for runways (hangar catwalks).

May 26, 1995 Mr. Scott Stratton Vice President Stratton, Inc. 2513 Deaton Street Lake Charles, LA 70601 Dear Mr. Stratton: This is in response to your September 8, 1994 letter requesting interpretation...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=21816

6. 1910.68 - Manlifts.

1910.68(a) "Definitions applicable to this section" - 1910.68(a)(1) "Handhold (Handgrip)." A handhold is a device attached to the belt, which can be grasped by the passenger to provide a means of...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9733

7. 2003 - 05/02/2003 - Walking and Working Surfaces; Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems) - 68:23527-23568

Part II Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910 Walking and Working Surfaces, Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems), Proposed Rule Docket...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=17819

8. 1910.6 - Incorporation by reference.

1910.6(a) 1910.6(a)(1) The standards of agencies of the U.S. Government, and organizations which are not agencies of the U.S. Government which are incorporated by reference in this part, have the same...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9702

9. 1910.66 App D - Existing Installations (Mandatory)

Use of the Appendix. Appendix D sets out the mandatory building and equipment requirements for applicable permanent installations completed after August 27, 1971 and no later than July 23, 1990...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9731

10. 1977 - 07/07/1977 - Guardrails on outside crane platforms.

DATE: July 7, 1977 SUBJECT: Interpretation - 29 CFR 1926.550(a)(13)(ii) TO: Joe M. Ansley, Jr. Acting Area Director Little Rock Area Office In reply to your request of June 29, 1977, concerning above...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=18651

11. 1996 - 03/07/1996 - Miscellaneous Minor and Technical Amendments - 61:9227-9255
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Parts 1901, 1902, 1910, 1915, 1926, 1928, 1950 and 1951 Miscellaneous Minor and Technical Amendments AGENCY: Occupational Safe...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13529

12. 1997 - 12/18/1997 - General Industry Standard as it applies to the electric utility industry. December 18, 1997 Mr. Dimitrios S. Mihou Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation 300 Erie Boulevard Syracuse, NY 13202-4250 Dear Mr. Mihou: This is in response to your April 9 letter requesting interpretation...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=22508

13. About LOTO

OSHA Lockout/Tagout eTool...

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/lototraining/preamble/pre-333-2.htm>

14. Section 3 - III. Summary and Explanation of the Final Rule

III. Summary and Explanation of the Final Rule The following discussion, which tracks the final rule paragraph by paragraph, summarizes and explains the significant substantive changes that this final...

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=PREAMBLES&p_id=1118

Examples of State Recognition

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/interps/1999/guardrail.pdf#search='ANSI%20A1264.1'>

http://www.labor.state.ut.us/Utah_Occupational_Safety_Hea/Sample_Safety_Programs/walkw_orksurf.pdf#search='ANSI%20A1264.1'

<http://www.utexas.edu/campusplanning/dc/divisions/DivisionOne/01420.pdf#search='ANSI%20A1264.1'>

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHsb/ladderwayandstairwayISOR.doc>

Recognition by Other Professional Societies & Associations

<http://www.astm.org/cgi->

bin/SoftCart.exe/DATABASE.CART/REDLINE_PAGES/E1481.htm?E+mystore