

### Guarding Floors, Stairs, and Other Openings

**Instructions:** This checklist is intended to help you identify potential hazards in your workplace. The questions are based on applicable Federal OSHA standards. Keep in mind that additional state and local regulations may apply, depending upon your location. Please check one answer for each question. If you select “no,” you should investigate further to determine what corrective action may be needed to address the hazard. You can review the specific OSHA Standards outlined below at [www.osha.gov/law-regs.html](http://www.osha.gov/law-regs.html). Choose “General Industry” or “Construction.”

	Questions	OSHA Regulation	Yes	No	N/A
	<b>Guarding Floors, Stairs, and Other Openings</b>				
1)	Are all closed stairways provided with a railing on at least one side?	1910.23(d)(1)			
2)	Are all fixed stairways with a width in excess of 88 inches provided with a center stair railing?	1910.23(d)(1)(v)			
3)	Are all floor openings to stairways, ladderways, hatchways, chutes, or manholes guarded by a standard railing and toeboards or other protective cover?	1910.23(a)(1), (2), (3), (5), and (6)			
4)	Are all handrails and railings provided with a clearance of at least 3 inches between the handrail or railing and any other object?	1910.23(e)(6)			
5)	Are all stair railings between 30 and 34 inches from the top of the rail to the surface of the tread in line with the face of the riser at forward edge of tread?	1910.23(e)(2)			
6)	Are handrails constructed so that they can be easily grasped?	1910.23(e)(5)			
7)	Are standard toeboards at least 4 inches in height provided at the floor of the guardrail?	1910.23(e)(4)			
8)	If pipe railings are used, are posts and top and intermediate rails at least 1-1/2 inches nominal diameter with posts spaced less than 8 feet on centers?	1910.23(e)(3)(ii)			

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	<b>Guarding Floors, Stairs, and Other Openings</b>				
<b>9)</b>	If wooden railings are used for guardrails, are the posts at least 2 inches by 4 inches and spaced less than 6 feet apart?	1910.23(e)(3)(l)			
<b>10)</b>	Is every floor hole into which a person could fall guarded by either a standard railing and toeboard or floor hole cover?	1910.23(a)(8)			
<b>11)</b>	Is every floor hole into which a person could not fall protected by a cover that leaves no openings more than 1 inch wide?	1910.23(a)(9)			
<b>12)</b>	Is every open sided floor four feet or more above ground level guarded by a standard guardrail?	1910.23(c)(1)			
<b>13)</b>	Is every open-sided floor or platform that is 4 feet or more above the adjacent floor ground level guarded by a standard railing on all open sides?	1910.23(c)(1)			
<b>14)</b>	Is every skylight floor opening and hole guarded by a standard skylight screen or a fixed standard railing on all exposed sides?	1910.23(a)(4)			
<b>15)</b>	Is every temporary floor opening guarded by a standard railing?	1910.23(a)(7)			
<b>16)</b>	Is every wall opening from which the drop is more than four feet guarded with a standard railing or other barrier?	1910.23(b)(1), (2) and (4)			
<b>17)</b>	Is the guardrail anchored and of such construction that it is capable of withstanding a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point on the top rail?	1910.23(e)(3)(iv)			

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