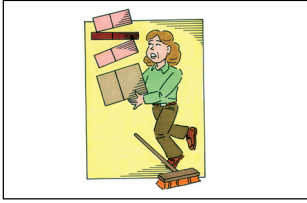


SAFETY ANSWER BOOK



WALKING-WORKING SURFACES — GENERAL Requirements Summary

Technical Summary

Slips, trips, and falls account for many industry accidents. In fact, they cause 10 percent of all accidental deaths and are fourth, following motor vehicles, homicides, and being struck by objects or equipment as a cause of fatalities. For this reason, OSHA's general walking-working surface requirements address housekeeping, aisles and passageways, covers and guardrails, and floor loading protection.

Housekeeping

It has been said that dirt is only misplaced matter, but if that is true, it is vitally important where that matter is placed. A cluttered, unkempt workplace lends itself to slips, trips, and falls. As such, housekeeping is part of everyone's job.

OSHA requires that employers:

- Keep all places of employment passageways, storerooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition;
- Maintain the floor in every workroom in a clean and, so far as possible, a dry condition (where wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained and gratings, mats, or raised platforms must be provided); and
- Keep every floor, working place and passageway free from protruding nails, splinters, holes, or loose boards.

Aisles and passageways

Improper aisle widths coupled with poor housekeeping and vehicle traffic can cause injury to employees, damage the equipment and material, and can limit egress in emergencies.

Employers must:

- Keep aisles and passageways clear and in good repair with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard;
- Provide aisles that are sufficiently wide enough where mechanical handling equipment is used; and