

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION  
TO  
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,  
TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

**§3273. Working Area.**

(a) Permanent floors and platforms shall be free of dangerous projections or obstructions, maintained in good repair, and reasonably free of oil, grease, or water. Where the type of operation necessitates working on slippery floors, such surfaces shall be protected against slipping by using mats, grates, cleats, or other methods which provide equivalent protection. Where wet processes are used drainage shall be maintained and false floors, platforms, mats, or other dry standing places provided.

~~(Title 24, Part 2, Section 2-2304(f))~~

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(c) Platforms, runways, ramps, or other elevated working levels, except catwalks, that are 30 inches or more above the floor, ground, or other working area shall be no less than 2 feet wide and have no less than 6 1/2 feet clear headroom. In existing installations where an overhead hazard exists due to clearances of less than 6 1/2 feet above ramps, runways, platforms, or other elevated work areas, such work area shall be relocated and the obstruction removed. If these procedures are impracticable, a suitable warning shall be placed near the obstruction to notify employees of its presence. Where the nature of the hazard is such that padding will increase safety, it shall be installed.

~~(Title 24, Part 2, Section 2-3320(h)(1))~~

(d) Catwalks shall be no less than 18 inches wide and have 6 1/2 feet clear headroom. When installed along inclined conveyors, crane booms, etc., where because of structural or load conditions it is unreasonable to comply with basic ramp standards, catwalks may have a slope exceeding 18 degrees.

~~(Title 24, Part 2, Section 2-3320(h)(2))~~

Exceptions:

1. When required location dictates, a catwalk may have less overhead clearance if a warning and padding are provided as in (c).
2. In bowling alleys at pin-spotting and pin-setting machines, catwalks shall be no less than nominal 8 inches wide and provided with an adequate handrail if the sides are not protected by another structure.

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(3) In unfinished attics and other ceiling spaces where access is not routine and of a short duration, a catwalk shall not be required if 1) there are ceiling joists or similar structural members at 2 feet or closer centers, 2) planks or solid platforms at least 12 inches in width are provided and supported by at least two ceiling joists or similar structural members, 3) a qualified person has determined that the ceiling structure and any planks or platforms used can bear all intended loads and 4) employees are supported by the planks or platforms at all times when in the attic or ceiling space.

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NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference Section 142.3, Labor Code; ~~and Section 18943(c), Health and Safety Code.~~