



# AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

*ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-2007  
Safety Requirements for Workplace  
Walking/Working  
Surfaces and Their Access; Workplace,  
Floor, Wall and Roof Openings; Stairs  
and Guardrails Systems*

ANSI/ASSE A1264.1-2007



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY ENGINEERS

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**ANSI A1264.1 – 2007**

**American National Standard**

**Safety Requirements for Workplace Walking/Working  
Surfaces and Their Access; Workplace, Floor, Wall and  
Roof Openings; Stairs and Guardrails Systems**

Secretariat

**American Society of Safety Engineers**  
1800 East Oakton Street  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018-2187

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**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

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**Foreword** (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard A1264.1 – 2007.)

This standard was developed by an American National Standards Committee, national in scope, functioning under the procedures of the American National Standards Institute with the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) as Secretariat. This standard establishes minimum safety requirements for workplace floor and wall openings, stairs and railing systems.

It is intended that the procedures and performance requirements detailed herein will be adopted by every employer whose operations fall within the scope and purpose of the standard.

Neither the standards committee, nor the Secretariat, feel that this standard is perfect or in its ultimate form. It is recognized that new developments are to be expected, and that revisions of the standard will be necessary as the art progresses and further experience is gained. It is felt, however, that uniform requirements are very much needed and that the standard in its present form provides for the minimum performance requirements necessary for the protection of personnel regarding workplace floor and wall openings, stairs and railing systems.

In addition to technical improvements, this revision contains two new definitions and four new illustrations to help clarify text in the standard.

Suggestions for improvements of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the American Society of Safety Engineers, 1800 East Oakton Street, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by American National Standards Committee A1264. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the A1264 Committee had the following members:

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## **Explanation of Standard**

American National Standard A1264.1 uses a two-column format to provide both specific requirements and supporting information.

The left column, designated "Standard Requirements," is confined solely to these requirements. Where supporting photographs or sketches are required, they are designated as "figures."

The right column, designated "Explanatory Information," contains only information that is intended to clarify the standards. This column is not a part of the standard.

Operating rules (safe practices) are not included in either column, unless they are of such a nature as to be vital safety requirements, equal in weight to other requirements, or guides to assist in compliance with the standard.



**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD A1264.1  
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKPLACE WALKING/WORKING  
SURFACES AND THEIR ACCESS; WORKPLACE, FLOOR, WALL AND  
ROOF OPENINGS; STAIRS AND GUARDRAILS SYSTEMS**

**STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

**EXPLANATORY INFORMATION**

*(Not part of American National  
Standard A1264.1)*

**1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, AND APPLICATION**

**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 through floor, roof or wall openings, or from platforms, runways, ramps, and fixed stairs, or roof edges in normal, temporary, and emergency conditions.

**1.1.1** Excluded from this standard are: private residences; escalators; moving walks; stairs or ramps serving floating roof tanks; 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; platforms; scaffolds; and construction work areas.

**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.

**E1.1.1** Recognizing that the special safety requirements necessary for stages, orchestra pits, churches, school auditoriums, and athletic 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.