



AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/ASSE A1264.1 – 2017

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

ANSI/ASSE A1264.1 – 2017



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY ENGINEERS

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ANSI/ASSE A1264.1 – 2017

American National Standard

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

Secretariat

**American Society of Safety Engineers
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068**

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American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard A1264.1 – 2017.)

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, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the 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 ANSI 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 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 GUARDRAIL/HANDRAIL 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 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

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.