

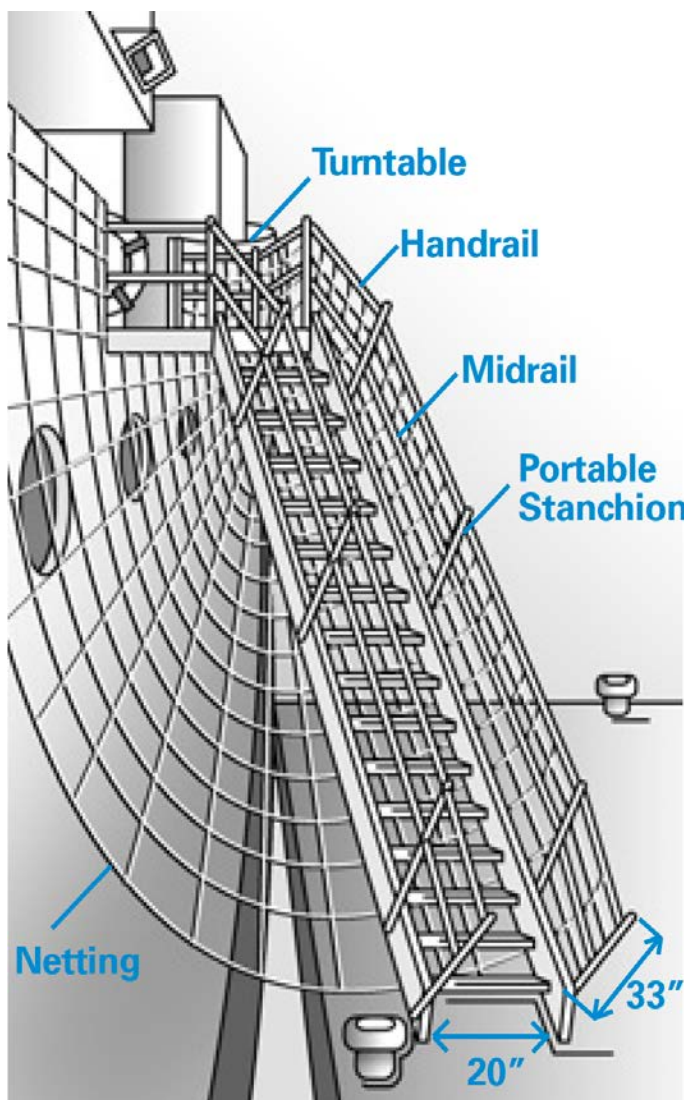


ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2023-08 (04 August 2023)

Vessels' Means of Access/Egress

With vessels' accommodation ladders [gangways] growing in their length in direct proportion to the container carrying capacity of many ships calling at our ports, it's extremely important to ensure that these means of access/egress are well designed and deployed. Here are some established rules meant to safeguard longshore workers who are obliged to utilize them.



- Whenever possible, a gangway must be at least 20 inches wide;
- Each side of the gangway and its turntable must be fitted with handrails (minimum of 33" high) and midrails;
- Railings must be made of wood, pipe, chain, wire, rope or other materials of equal strength;
- Chain, wire or rope railings must be kept taut (tightly strung);
- Removable stanchions that provide support for railings must be secured to prevent displacement;
- A net shall be provided to protect workers from falling into the water;
- If there is more than a one foot gap between the foot of the gangway and the apron, the space must be bridged with a firm walkway fitted with a toprail and a midrail;
- Gangways must be kept unobstructed, with clear passage maintained from top to bottom;
- If, of necessity, a gangway's supporting bridle provides an overhead obstruction its presence must be clearly marked.

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

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