

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Division of Labor
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OSH Program Directive Number 75-1910.23-3

Subject: Clearance for Handrails and Railings.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.23(e)(5)(iii) and Section 1910.23(e)(6) Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.23(e)(5)(iii) and 29 CFR 1910.23(e)(6).

Background: This bulletin clarifies when clearance for handrails and railings are to be cited as de minimis.

Interpretation: The present standard in Section 1910.23(e)(5)(iii) states in part: "The length of brackets shall be such as will give a clearance between handrail and wall or any projection thereto of at least three (3) inches." Section 1910.23(e)(6) states: "All handrails and railings shall be provided with a clearance of not less than three (3) inches between the handrail or railing and any other object."

In the proposed changes to Walking-Working Surfaces, published in the Federal Register on September 6, 1973, Section 1910.23n(f) states: "All handrails and railings shall have a clearance of not less than one and one-half (1 ½) inches between the handrail or railing and any other object."

Pending final approval of the proposed changes in the standards, any violation of the clearance requirement of handrails and railings required under Section 1910.23 shall be considered de minimis if the clearance is at least one and one-half (1 ½) inches.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the regulation or program directive.

William M. Lybrand
April 11, 1975