

**WAC 51-51-0311 Section R311—Means of egress.**

**R311.4 Vertical egress.** Egress from habitable levels including habitable attics and basements not provided with an egress door in accordance with Section R311.2 shall be by a ramp in accordance with Section R311.8 or a stairway in accordance with Section R311.7.

EXCEPTION: Stairways, alternating tread devices, ship's ladders, or ladders within an individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit used for access to areas of 200 square feet (18.6 m<sup>2</sup>) or less, are exempt from the requirements of Sections R311.4 and R311.7, where such devices do not provide exclusive access to a kitchen or bathroom. Such areas shall not be located more than 10 feet (3048 mm) above the finished floor of the space below.

**R311.7.11 Alternating tread devices.** *Alternating tread devices* shall not be used as an element of a means of egress. *Alternating tread devices* shall be permitted provided that a required means of egress stairway or ramp serves the same space at each adjoining level or where a means of egress is not required. The clear width at and below the handrails shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

EXCEPTION: Not adopted.

**R311.7.12 Ship's ladders.** Ship's ladders shall not be used as an element of a means of egress. Ship's ladders shall be permitted provided that a required means of egress stairway or ramp serves the same space at each adjoining level or where a means of egress is not required. The clear width at and below the handrails shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

EXCEPTION: Not adopted.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 23-23-104, § 51-51-0311, filed 11/15/23, effective 3/16/24; WSR 23-02-058, 23-12-104, and 23-20-024, § 51-51-0311, filed 1/3/23, 6/7/23, and 9/25/23, effective 3/15/24; WSR 20-03-023, § 51-51-0311, filed 1/6/20, effective 7/1/20; WSR 10-03-098, § 51-51-0311, filed 1/20/10, effective 7/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.074, 19.27.020, and chapters 19.27 and 34.05 RCW. WSR 07-01-090, § 51-51-0311, filed 12/19/06, effective 7/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 04-01-109, § 51-51-0311, filed 12/17/03, effective 7/1/04.]