

WAC 296-304-05011 Access to cargo spaces and confined spaces.

(1) Cargo spaces.

(a) There must be at least one safe and accessible ladder in any cargo space which employees must enter.

(b) When any fixed ladder is visibly unsafe, you must prohibit its use by employees.

(c) Straight ladders of adequate strength and suitably secured against shifting or slipping must be provided as necessary when fixed ladders in cargo spaces do not meet the requirements of (a) of this section. When conditions are such that a straight ladder cannot be used, a Jacob's ladder meeting the requirements of WAC 296-304-05007(4) may be used.

(d) When cargo is stowed within 4 inches of the back of ladder rungs, the ladder must be deemed "unsafe" for the purpose of this section.

(e) Fixed ladders or straight ladders provided for access to cargo spaces must not be used at the same time that cargo drafts or other loads are entering or leaving the hold. Before using these ladders to enter or leave the hold, the employee must be required to inform the winchman or crane signalman of his intention.

(2) Confined spaces.

(a) More than one means of access must be provided to a confined space in which employees are working and in which the work may generate a hazardous atmosphere in the space except where the structure or arrangement of the vessel makes this provision impractical.

(b) When the ventilation ducts required by these regulations must pass through these means of access, the ducts must be of such a type and so arranged as to permit free passage of an employee through at least two of these means of access.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-304-05011, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; Order 74-25, § 296-304-05011, filed 5/7/74.]