Ladder Selection & Inspection

SF-LIB-09 | Height & access | Employer planning starter

Choose appropriate access and record ladder defects and setup checks.

Scope and limits

Construction ladder checklist referencing 1926.1053. Other ladder types and general-industry work need their applicable criteria.

Proposed employer workflow

1. First decide whether a safer work platform or access method is appropriate for the task.

2. Choose the correct ladder type, duty rating and length; consider electrical exposure and manufacturer limitations.

3. Inspect for defects; tag and remove damaged ladders from use rather than making an improvised repair.

4. Set up on a stable surface and secure against displacement; use the required setup angle and landing access provisions for the ladder type.

5. Keep access clear, face the ladder and avoid carrying loads that impair safe climbing.

6. Reposition instead of overreaching and reinspect after an event that could damage the ladder.

Stop-work trigger

Do not use a damaged ladder or an unstable setup to complete a short task.

Adapt this resource before use. It is not OSHA-approved, a certification, a permit, or a complete site-specific safety program. The employer must determine applicable rules and approve the actual controls.

Site implementation worksheet

Ladder Selection & Inspection

Employer / site: _____

Administrator / contact: _____

Effective date / next review: _____

Complete these topic-specific arrangements

Ladder ID / type / rating

Procedure / location / responsible person

Setup location / landing / electrical hazards

Procedure / location / responsible person

Defects / quarantine / replacement action

Procedure / location / responsible person

Attach the supporting plans

Identify applicable federal, State Plan and task-specific rules; attach equipment instructions, assessments, maps and any required written programs or permits. Record their document IDs below.

Supporting document / revision / owner

Employer approval / signature / date: _____

Approval of this worksheet alone does not authorize hazardous work.

Field check & follow-up

Ladder Selection & Inspection

Task / date / reviewer: _____

Mark each item Yes / No / N/A. Explain N/A. Resolve any missing critical control before work; record who verified the correction.

Check	Y / N / N/A	Action / owner
Type and rating appropriate		
Rails and steps undamaged		
Stable secured setup		
Landing access protected		
Climbing route clear		

Crew briefing and verification

Discuss: Do not use a damaged ladder or an unstable setup to complete a short task.

Ask each worker to explain the task controls and who to contact. Record the topic, participant names, demonstration or questions, and unresolved gaps. Attendance alone is not proof of proficiency.

Participants / evidence / gaps / corrective action

Reviewed by / date / follow-up due: _____

Official reference and use

https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1053

Source checked Nov 3, 2026. OSHA regulations and recommended guidance have different roles. Verify changes and applicability before adoption. Procedures and forms here are original SafetyFluent planning aids. Copy and adapt for internal workplace use, retaining source and revision details.

Records: assign secure storage, access and retention based on applicable requirements; there is no universal retention period for every form. Keep medical details out of this general crew worksheet.