ISLAND ACOUSTICS
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Job#_____Job Name _____ Date 11/19/2026

Platform Ladder Safety

Platform ladders provide a larger standing surface than traditional stepladders, making them useful for tasks that require a worker to remain at an elevated position for a period of time. However, the platform does not eliminate the risk of falls or other ladder-related injuries. Proper ladder selection, inspection, setup, and use are still essential, and workers should always follow the manufacturer's instructions and understand the hazards in the surrounding work area before climbing.

A platform ladder is a self-supporting portable step ladder with a platform provided at the highest intended standing level. The platform provides an area to stand on while working that can be a bit more comfortable than just standing on the step of a ladder.

PLATFORM LADDER HAZARDS

Beware of these hazards when using platform ladders:

- Broken or damaged ladders
- Unstable or slippery ground surface
- Slippery substances on shoes or the ladder steps
- Climbing up or down in an unsafe manner
- Poor housekeeping near the ladder
- Using a ladder in a high-traffic area
- Close proximity to electrical dangers

Some (but not all!) platform ladders can be used by two workers at the same time. Before assuming two people can climb the same ladder, refer to the manufacturer's user manual and the warning labels on the ladder to understand the weight limits and safety guidelines.

Always follow all manufacturer's warnings for the specific type of ladder being used.

SETTING UP A PLATFORM LADDER

Before climbing a platform ladder, think about where and how it will be set up. Read and follow all the instructions provided with the ladder as well as the warnings on the ladder.

All four ladder feet must be set firmly on the floor or the ground. Do not set up a platform ladder on any unstable, loose, or slippery surface. Never place a ladder on top of other objects, like shelves, scaffolds, boxes, or pallets, to try to gain more height to access the work area.

Do not set up a platform ladder in front of unlocked doors. When it is necessary to set up a ladder in an area like a passageway, doorway, or driveway, the ladder should be secured, and the area should be barricaded to keep traffic and pedestrians away from the ladder to avoid displacement.

Avoid electrical hazards! Look for overhead power lines before handling or climbing a ladder. Do not use a metal ladder near power lines or electrical equipment.

Do not use any portable ladder outdoors in high winds or stormy weather.

INSPECTING A PLATFORM LADDER

Ladder inspections are required! The OSHA Construction standard states that ladders must be inspected on a periodic basis and the General Industry standard states that ladders must be inspected before the first time they are used each shift.

During a ladder inspection look at all the working parts, bolts, rivets, step-to-side rail connections, and the condition of the anti-slip feet.

If the ladder is damaged, if there are missing parts, or if you find any other hazardous defect, remove it from service and tag it. The ladder must be repaired before it can be used again or properly discarded. **Never use a damaged ladder!**

When storing ladders on racks when they are not in use, make sure the racks have enough support points for the length of the ladder. If there is not enough support for the ladder it can warp over time.

Never place other materials on top of ladders in storage.

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OSHA SAFETY TRAINING CERTIFICATION FORM

Toolbox Topic Covered: Platform Ladder Safety

Print Name	Signature

Supervisor/Foreman Signature:_____