

**(Effective October 1, 2020)**

**WAC 296-876-90010 Manhole step requirements.** In addition to the walking-working surface rule (WAC 296-24-73505) requirements and the relevant fixed ladder standard requirements (chapter 296-876 WAC), you must ensure:

(1) Each manhole step is capable of supporting its maximum intended load.

(2) Rungs and steps of manhole entry ladders that are supported by the manhole opening have a minimum clear width of nine inches (23 cm).

(3) Each manhole step installed on or after January 17, 2017:

(a) Has a corrugated, knurled, dimpled, or other surface that minimizes the possibility of an employee slipping.

(b) Is constructed of, or coated with, material that protects against corrosion if the manhole step is located in an environment where corrosion may occur.

(c) Has a minimum clear step width of ten inches (25 cm).

(d) Is uniformly spaced at a vertical distance not more than sixteen inches (41 cm) apart, measured center to center between steps. The spacing from the entry and exit surface to the first manhole step may differ from the spacing between the other steps.

(e) Has a minimum perpendicular distance between the centerline of the manhole step to the nearest permanent object in back of the step of at least four and one-half inches (11 cm).

(f) Is designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent the employee's foot from slipping or sliding off the end.

(4) The employer must ensure that each manhole step is inspected at the start of the work shift and maintained in accordance with the walking-working surface rule (WAC 296-24-73505).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060 and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 20-09-146, § 296-876-90010, filed 4/21/20, effective 10/1/20.]