

## **Stairways and Ladders Checklist**

**Christopher G. Hill**

**804.916.6591**

**Chill@durettebradshaw.com**



### **Generally:**

- Provided at all personnel points of access if break in elevation at least 19 inches
  - Always have at least 1 clear point of access between levels

### **Stairways:**

- Installed at least 30 degrees, and no more than 50 degrees, from horizontal
- If doors or gates open directly onto stairway
  - Platform must extend at least 20 inches beyond swing of the door
- If 4 or more risers OR rising more than 30 inches
  - At least 1 handrail *and*
  - At least 1 stair rail system along each unprotected side/edge
    - 42 inch guardrail system for unprotected sides/edges of stairway landing
    - Stair rails at least 36 inches high
      - Midrails midway between top of stair rail and steps
- If not permanent part of structure
  - At least 30 inches deep and 22 inches wide at every 12 feet or less of vertical rise

### **Ladders:**

- Ladder rungs, cleats, and steps parallel, level, and evenly spaced when in use
- Stepladder
  - Has metal spreader or locking device
  - Do not use top or top step as a step
- Portable
  - Side rails that extend at least 3 feet above landing
- Possible contact to exposed energized parts
  - Nonconductive side rails
- Do not tie or fasten ladders together unless designed for such use
- If structural defects found, mark ladder as defective and withdraw from service
  - Do not use single-rail ladders