

Ladder Maintenance and Inspections - 29 CFR 1910.26 (c)

OSHA requires inspection of any ladder before use if the ladder has tipped over or is possibly damaged. If a ladder is exposed to chemicals or slippery materials such as grease, the surfaces should be cleaned of residue and inspected before use. Inspection should include the following:

- checking the side rails for dents or bent areas
- checking rungs for excessive dents
- checking each side-to-rail connecting point
- checking all hardware connections
- checking rivets for shearing
- insuring that any grease or slippery material is removed

If a chemical might affect the metal or wood construction, the ladder should be tagged or marked to prevent use until inspected. If a ladder is damaged, it must likewise be taken out of service and marked or tagged until repaired. While the ladder could be sent to the manufacturer, OSHA allows for a facility maintenance department to make any necessary repairs.