

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION  
TO  
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

Attachment No. 1

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PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,  
TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

DRAFT

Telecommunication Safety Orders  
Amend Section 8608 to read as follows:

§8608. Poles, Towers and Ladders.

~~(a) The spacing between permanent and detachable steps installed on poles and towers shall be not more than 18 inches (36 inches on any one side). Spacing shall be uniform except where working, standing or access steps are required. The lowest permanent step shall be not less than 7 feet 6 inches from the ground line. Permanent steps for poles and towers shall not unnecessarily obstruct the climbing space and shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8 inch and a minimum clear tread width of 4 1/2 inches. The lowest detachable step shall be no more than 24 inches above ground level. Detachable steps shall be properly secured when in use.~~

Definition applicable to subsection (a).

“Steps” means permanent or detachable round or flat members attached to the pole or tower on one end with the other end designed to prevent the foot from sliding off while ascending or descending the pole or tower.

(a)(1) Permanent steps for poles and towers shall not unnecessarily obstruct the climbing space and shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8 - inch and a minimum clear tread width of 4 ½ inches.

(2) Detachable steps for poles and towers shall meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1) or shall provide a suitable foothold that does not unnecessarily obstruct the climbing space and shall provide a minimum clear tread width of 4 ½ inches. Detachable steps shall be properly secured when in use.

(3) The spacing between permanent and detachable steps installed on poles and towers shall be not more than 18 inches (36 inches on any one side). Spacing shall be uniform except where working, standing or access steps are required.

(4) The lowest permanent step shall be not less than 7 feet 6 inches from the ground line. The lowest detachable step shall be no more than 24 inches above the ground line, or if there is a structural footing or foundation, no more than 24 inches above the top surface of the footing/foundation.

(5) ~~(b) Pole Steps. Wood poles (such as poles~~ Poles with pole mounted terminals and/or strand mounted terminals) which are expected to be frequently climbed for maintenance or operating purposes shall be stepped in accordance with ~~the regulations of the~~ California Public Utilities Commission, ~~(G.O. 95, March, 1980).~~ General Order No. 95, August 2009, Sections 51.7, 81.6, 84.7-E. and 91.3, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

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(b)(1) All fixed ladders on poles and towers shall be approved as defined in Section 3206 of the General Industry Safety Orders.

(2) Fixed ladder rungs for poles and towers shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8-inch and a minimum clear width of 12 inches between the side rails.

(3) The distance between the top surfaces of rungs shall not exceed 12 inches and shall be uniform throughout the length of the ladder.

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NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code