

**North Carolina Department of Labor
Division of Occupational Safety and Health**

Raleigh, North Carolina

Field Information System

Standards Notice 3A

Subject: 29 CFR 1910.22 (b) - Aisles and Passageways. Interpretation of “sufficient space” and “appropriately marked.”

A. Standard.

29 CFR 1910.22 (b) states: Aisles and passageways. (1) Where mechanical handling equipment is used, sufficient safe clearances shall be allowed for aisles, at loading docks, through doorways and wherever turns or passage must be made. Aisles and passageways shall be kept clean and in good repairs, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard. (2) Permanent aisles and passageways shall be appropriately marked.

B. Discussion.

Federal STD 1-1.4 addresses a concern that painted stripes on floors are the only way of marking a permanent passageway. This SN incorporates a letter of interpretation from May 15, 1972 and STD 1-1.4.

C. Interpretation.

“Sufficient safe clearance” is interpreted in a May 15, 1972 OSHA letter. The recommended width of aisles is 3 feet wider than the largest equipment utilized or a minimum of 4 feet, are recommended but not required.

The recommended minimum width of aisle markings is 2 inches.

29 CFR 1910.22 (b)(1) contains the phrase “Where mechanical handling equipment is used...” that limits the requirement of sufficient safe clearances to aisles only used by mechanical equipment. Aisles used only by pedestrian traffic should follow the requirements found in NFPA 101-1991 31-1.2.1.

“Appropriately marked” is not intended to restrict the markings to a particular type. OSHNC allows the use of various markings for aisles and passageways including permanent structures and will not cite this standard when:

1. Aisles and passageways at the establishment are evident; that is, they are formed by cones, barrels, pillars, flags, racks, machinery or any stationary structure that:
 - a) cannot be moved,
 - b) make it clear that they are aisles or passageways,
 - c) are neat and orderly and have no apparent violations as far as housekeeping or blocked aisles are concerned.
2. Each employee in the area should recognize the marking system and know to expect to encounter mechanical handling equipment in the aisles.

SN 3A cont'd.

D. **Effective Date.**

SN 3 is canceled. This SN is effective on the date of signature. It will remain in effect until revised or canceled by the Director.

Signed on Original

Kevin O'Barr
Safety Standards Officer

Signed on Original

Allen McNeely
Director

8/09/05

Date of Signature