



AMERICAN LADDER INSTITUTE

A NATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

2025 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
TELEPHONE: 202-367-1136
FAX: 312-673-6929

April 28, 2014

Mr. Jon Ver Halen
Ver Halen Engineering
7200 Harvard St.
Forest Park, IL 60130

SUBJECT: Response to request for interpretation of ANSI-ASC A14.3 side rail shape requirements

Dear Mr. Ver Halen:

Thank you for your request for an interpretation of the applicability of the *American National Standard for Ladders – Fixed – Safety Requirements (2008)* (ANSI A14.3) Section 5.2.1.1, requirements for side rail shapes.

INTERPRETATION REQUEST:

“In ANSI A14.3-2008 Paragraph 5.2.1.1 states in “Irregular shapes that do not provide for uniform power gripping shall not be used (e.g. angle iron, I-beam configurations, etc.)”

Is this section intended to prevent usage of all angle iron or I-beam configurations?

ANSWER:

No.

RATIONALE:

The intent of the A14 Committee was not to eliminate the use of ANY and/or ALL “angle iron, I-beams, etc.” for use in side rails of fixed ladders. The A14 Committee recognizes that some irregular shapes, of which the term “irregular shapes” includes angle iron and I-beam shapes, would provide for a uniform power grip. Angle iron and I-beams can be used as long as they provide for a uniform power grip as defined in the ANSI A14.3-2008 standard.

This interpretation is applicable to the ANSI A14.3-2008 standard from the initial ANSI approval date of the document on October 31, 2008.

Thank you for your interest in ANSI A14 standards.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Inks".

Jeffrey Inks
Executive Director

cc: ANSI ASC A14 Committee