Silo Safety –

Silo Ladders

Today, silo builders abide by the American Society of Agricultural Engineer’s (ASAE) standards for outside ladders on the silos they build. These standards are: 16” wide rungs, even step spacing, and 7” toe space. Standards also call for caging within 10’ of the ground, in-line rest platforms at 30’ spacing‘s and a platform at the top. Cages have several vertical straps and a large opening at the bottom. These ASAE standards make good sense.

What’s on your silos? You need to check to make sure your silo is safe to climb. Old ladders get rusty. Some ladders are mounted tight to the hoops with little toe space. Other ladders are mounted away from the silo with standoffs. A lot of ladder systems are 12” wide. Many cages are rusted so badly that they provide no safety.

So what do you look for? First, if you “question” the condition of your ladder, it’s probably not safe. Make sure the fasteners are in good condition. All bolts need to be tight. Ladders and cages shouldn’t be rusty. Ladder stand offs need to be secure behind the hoops. Rungs need to be tight.

Stand back and visually inspect your ladders. If there is no safety cage on it, consider adding it. If it has you wondering how safe it is, call your silo contractor for his advice. ***Remember, a safe ladder system is a good investment***

\*These articles are contributed by Bruce Johnson, President of the International Silo Association (ISA) and other members of the ISA. They are meant to call attention to silo safety. They are not all inclusive. Your best source of information is the International Silo Association’s “Silo Operator’s Manual” which is available on our website at http://silo.org/silo-operators-manual/ . You can also contact us at 1-833-472-7456, info@silo.org or on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSiloAssocialtion/