§ 1918.26 Access to barges and river towboats.

(a) With the exception of §1918.25(b)(2), ramps used solely for vehicle access to or between barges shall meet the requirements of §1918.26.

(b) When employees cannot safely step to or from the wharf and a float, barge, or river towboat, either a ramp meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section or a safe walkway meeting the requirements of §1918.22(f) shall be provided. When a ramp or walkway cannot be used, a straight ladder meeting the requirements of §1918.24 and extending at least three feet (.91 m) above the upper landing surface and adequately secured or held against shifting or slipping shall be provided. When neither a walkway nor a straight ladder can be used, a Jacob’s ladder meeting the requirements of §1918.23 shall be provided. Exception: For barges operating on the Mississippi River System, where the employer shows that these requirements cannot reasonably be met due to local conditions, other safe means of access shall be provided.

(c) When a barge or raft is being worked alongside a larger vessel, a Jacob’s ladder meeting the requirements of §1918.23 shall be provided for each gang working alongside unless other safe means of access is provided. However, no more than two Jacob’s ladders are required for any single barge or raft being worked.

(d) When longshoring operations are in progress on barges, the barges shall