Recommended Procedures for Maintaining Safe Stairways/Stairwells

Overall:
- All floor transitions greater than a ¼" in height should be clearly marked with safety yellow tape or paint to highlight the change in elevation.
- Highlight the edge (nosing) of each step with safety yellow tape or paint, including the top and bottom, to provide a cue of a change in elevation.
- Apply non-slip surfacing such as anti-slip strips to the leading edge of stair treads.
- Repair stairways identified as hazardous and patch or fill cracks in walkways greater than ½" wide.
- Confirm all handrails are within an appropriate height range (34–38" from the stepping surface).
- Confirm that handrails extend full length of stair and extend 12 inches at top and one tread depth at bottom.
- Consider adding a handrail at locations that have less than 4 steps.
- Confirm that all stairwells and emergency exits are adequately marked.
- Where stairs or stairways exit directly into any area where vehicles may be operated, ensure there are adequate barriers and warnings provided to prevent employees from stepping into the path of traffic.

Housekeeping:
- Conduct regular sweeping and if necessary, mopping of stairs to remove water, oils and other liquids.
- Use appropriate signage during cleaning to warn of slippery floors.
- Prevent entry to areas that are wet using barrier products such as caution signs and caution tapes.
- Train cleaning staff on the correct use of all cleaning products based on manufacturers recommendations.
3M™ Safer Floors

Lighting:

☐ Verify that lighting levels are adequate, especially when transitioning from bright outside light to darker inside light.

☐ Consider lighting that makes stair tread nosings distinctly visible and does not cause glare or strong shadows.

☐ Check that lighting levels are compliant with local codes, ANSI®, and/or Illuminating Engineering Society (IESNA) recommendations.