



Changes to European and UK Ladder Standards

Although ladders are not always the first choice when carrying out work at height, they can be a practical option for low-risk short duration work (under 30 minutes). However Class 1 and Class 3 ladders will no longer be available after a transition period. The changes to the ladder standards have implications for users and health and safety professionals, and include improved stability and enhanced test requirements to improve strength, rigidity and durability. There are now two types of ladder: non-professional for domestic use only and professional for use in the workplace. Both have a minimum capacity of 150 Kg.

Organisations may continue to use their existing ladders providing that they are in good condition. However they should consider updating their purchasing policies to specify the new requirement for EN 131 professional ladders when replacing or buying new ladders in the future.

Where a ladder is considered to be the sensible option when working at height, it is important to use the right ladder and be trained in how to use it safely. Always carry out a risk assessment before deciding to use a ladder, as other equipment may be more appropriate for the work to be carried out, and ensure that you have read the instructions and safety labels on the ladder.

