

SKYLAX Standard for Portable Ladders and Stairs

POSTER: <http://www.skylax.com/pdf/euroe.pdf>

1. Reduce complexity of most different ladder types

- use folding stairs for works up to 3 meters/10 feet
- use telescoping ladders for works up to 7 meters / 20 feet

2. Use light ladders (max. 25 kg / 11 pounds)

- steel ladders (max. 4 meters / 13 feet)
- wood ladders (max. 5 meters / 16 feet)
- fiberglass ladders (max. 5 meters / 16 feet)
- aluminium ladders (max. 7 meters / 20 feet)

3. Use ladders with automatic arrest /locking

- in all working positions
- in transport position

4. Use ladders with self instructive handling

- without users manual

5. Ban any sort of detachable accessories on ladders

for example:

- hooks – clasps – points – levelers - platforms
- footboards – rolls – rods - spacers
- boards – depositaries etc.

6. Causes of ladder accidents should be printed on the ladder

Causes of Ladder Accidents:

- Complacency about danger
- Dizziness and poor balance
- Fatigue and weak muscles and bones
- Poor vision
- Poor hearing and exposure to noise
- Ladder touching live electrical conductors
- Ladder slipping at top
- Ladder slipping at base
- Ladder resting against moveable objects
- Falling material

Standards and Regulations in European Countries (EU)

* "Work at Height Regulations" (WAHR) set out safety and health requirements for safer use of portable ladders and stairs. WAHR are not equipment-oriented minimum technical standards but user-oriented regulations to conduct risk assessment of work at height. Technical standards like EN 131 and standard certifications are obsolete and without legal obligation since agreements between member countries of World Trade Organisation (WTO) have been activated, especially the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) . Since then neither private organisations nor public institutions in WTO countries are allowed anymore to prescribe how to design, to produce or to distribute portable ladders if it is not demonstrated with scientific evidence, that non-application of a technical description, advise, instruction or ladder standard will damage personal health or national security; technical standards for portable ladders have become obsolete because of insufficiency of scientific evidence which makes it impossible to conduct risk assessment of single products. For science based details see "Gaps Analysis to NIOSH" <http://www.skylax.info/ladder-safety-science-report.html>

"Work at Height Regulations" (WAHR) induce permanent risk assessment. "SKYLAX Standard for healthier work at height" is an invitation to discuss WAHR regulations.

"SKYLAX Safety Manuals" can help to assess risks of working with ladders. Our "Safety Manuals" are handed out with each single ladder made by Skylax

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SKYLAX Standard for Portable Ladders & Stairs

- 1. Reduce complexity of most different ladder types**
- 2. Use light ladders - max. 25 kg 11 pounds**
- 3. Use ladders with automatic arrest in working positions**
- 4. Use ladders with self instructive handling**
- 5. Ban any sort of detachable accessories on ladders**
- 6. Causes of ladder accidents should be printed on the ladder (sticker from SKYLAX)**

SKYLAX

The healthier way up