

If a ladder is the way to go

There are times when a ladder is the best or most practical piece of access equipment for the job. In these cases the key is to select the right ladder and to use it safely.

Training: The Definitive Standard

If it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and use it safely is the fundamental premiss upon which the Ladder Association's national training scheme is based. Developed by the members of the association - people who know and understand ladders and stepladders and speak the language - the course is increasingly recognised as the industry standard.

Don Aers, chairman of the association says: "With an estimated two million ladders in daily use, the need for professional training has never been greater."



approved and audited training centres, it enables delegates to:

- Select appropriate work at height equipment for a specific task
- Assess and determine when it is appropriate to use a ladder
- Correctly locate and safely use ladders and stepladders
- Inspect ladders and stepladders for damage

Upon successful completion, every delegate receives a certificate of competence and photocard as objective proof of competence. Recent additions to the Ladder Association training network include the HSS Hire Service Group and Boss Training based in Leeds.

Ladder Association AGM

The Ladder Association's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge, on Friday, 9 November 2007. The AGM is open to all members of the association.

12.30 to 14.00: *Registration and buffet lunch*

14.00 to 15.30: *AGM followed by guest speaker*

15.30 to 19.00: *At leisure*

19.00 to 19.30: *Pre-dinner drinks*

19.30 onwards: *Ladder Association dinner*

The guest speaker will be Peter Greenwood, Programme Manager [International Secretariats] at BSI, and BSI representative on the European Ladder Committee. Peter will explain how standards work and, in particular, about the changes to EN131 and the implications of



Anyone affected by these changes is advised to get copies of the revised EN131 standard. None of this currently affects other UK standards for ladders - BS2037:1994 and BS1129:1990.

The proposed draft revision to **Part 2: Requirements, Testing and Marking** was not adopted and it was agreed that the current 1993 version would be retained. However, work will continue in an attempt to develop an acceptable Part 2.

On the Horizon

The LadderBOOK: a 12-page guide to everything you've ever wanted to know about ladders and stepladders, but were afraid to ask! Publication date, November 2007.

Training Poster: the first in a series of Ladder Association posters designed to encourage best practice in the workplace. Publication date, November 2007.

Users' Guide: a revised version of the 40-page guide to reflect the association's new name and livery. Publication date, November 2007.

the recent CEN Committee decisions.

More details about the AGM from the Ladder Association website: www.ladderassociation.org.uk

Meeting of the European Ladder Committee

The European Ladder Committee [TC93] met in Brussels on 6 September to discuss the outcome of the formal vote for the revision of the EN131 Ladder Standard. The British Standards Committee B512 represented the UK. Representing the Ladder Association on B512 were Don Aers [association chair], Chris Ball [vice chair] and Gary Clubb [technical committee chair].

A number of issues were discussed and revisions of EN131 Parts 1, 3 and 4 were adopted, namely:

Part 1: Terms, Types and Functional Sizes -

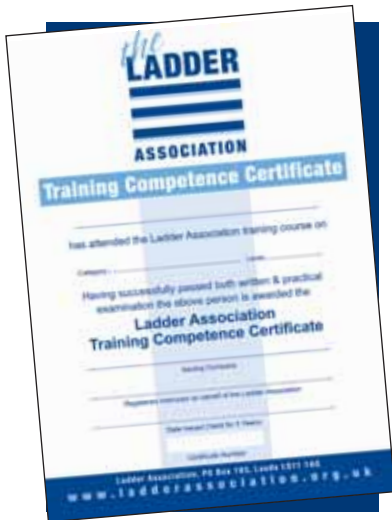
a revision of the current standard Part 1.

Part 3: User Instructions -

a new part to the standard detailing marking requirements. The association's technical committee has already started work on considering the new requirements.

Part 4: Single or Multiple Hinge Joint Ladders -

another new part covering the requirements for this type of ladder in detail, including specific testing requirements.



"When you consider the global risk issues across the spectrum of work at height equipment, the ladder remains a very effective and safe tool when used properly in appropriate applications. But people need to be trained to use ladders in exactly the same way as they are trained to use mobile access towers or powered access equipment."

Completion of the Ladder Association training course provides the proof of competence demanded by the Work at Height Regulations. Delivered only by association



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