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HSE Urges Workers to Trade 'Dodgy' Ladders

On 1 September 2009 the UK's Health & Safety Executive (HSE) announced its annual call for 'dodgy' ladders to be surrendered. The work safely at height campaign centres around the 'ladder exchange' which gives everyone the opportunity to get rid of old, damaged and broken ladders and trade them in for new ones. Over 5,000 ladders have been exchanged under this scheme since it first launched in 2007.

Every month over 10 people fall off a ladder at work in the UK and suffer serious injury. The message from HSE and the Ladder Association, a partner in this year's campaign, is clear: "If it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely."

Peter Brown, HSE head of work environment, Gas and Radiation Division, said: "Over the next few months, businesses will get the chance to get their ladders checked and where necessary, trade them in for new ones at a special discounted price. The Ladder Exchange is the perfect opportunity for businesses to assess the risks involved in using ladders and to adopt sensible health and safety measures."



Don Aers, chairman of the Ladder Association adds: "Over two million people work on ladders daily in the UK and we want all of those workers to work safely. We enthusiastically support the Ladder Exchange as an initiative, alongside training, that can really make a difference."

Ladder Association members supporting this year's Ladder Exchange include Abru, Clow Group, Globe Ladders, HSS Hire, LadderStore.com, Ladder & Fencing Industries (Newent) Ltd and the Youngman Group.

More information at www.ladderassociation.org.uk

2009 LadderBook

Over 30,000 copies of the 2009 LadderBook have now been distributed. The 12-page booklet contains some good advice on how to use a ladder safely and the important part training has in ensuring that people who carry out tasks with ladders do so sensibly and appropriately. For a copy of the 2009 edition, email jill.couttie@ladderassociation.org.uk or telephone Jill on 0845 260 1048.



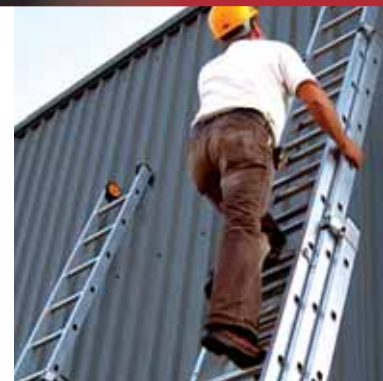
Know it All? Think Again!

The Association for Project Safety (APS) and the Access Industry Forum (AIF), which includes the Ladder Association, have joined forces to present a work at height conference - with associated exhibition and live demonstrations - at Lingfield Park Racecourse on Monday, 28 September 2009. Called Working at height: Know it all...think again! it will address the key issues facing CDM duty holders in the construction sector. More information from organiser, Tony Baker, at abaker@aatcl.org.uk



c&a

ladders



Step Methodology

The Ladder Association advocates the 'STEP Methodology' when using ladders:

Site: When positioning a ladder, is the ground/resting surface suitably dry, flat, firm, strong and secure? If not, you must adapt the surface or take other measures to prevent the ladder becoming unstable.

Task: You should not undertake a task using a ladder or stepladder which will require you to work continuously for more than 30 minutes.

Equipment: Ladders are classified according to general conditions and possible frequency of use. Make sure you're using the correct classification of ladder. (See article below)

People: The Work at Height Regulations state that, "Every employer shall ensure that no person engages in any activity including organisation, planning and supervision in relation to work at height or work equipment for use in such work until he or she is competent to do so, or if being trained, is supervised by a competent person."

Ladder Standards & Classification

Ladders are classified according to the general conditions and possible frequency of use:

Industrial ladders: For heavy duty where relatively high frequency and onerous conditions of use, carriage and storage occur. BS2037 Class1 and BS1129 Class1 ladders are suitable for industrial applications.

Light trades ladders: For medium duty where relatively low frequency and reasonably good conditions of use, carriage and storage occur. BS EN131 ladders are suitable for light trades applications. In addition, the higher rated BS2037 Class 1 and BS1129 Class1 ladders can also be used for light trades applications.

Domestic ladders: For light duty where frequency of use is low and good carriage and storage conditions occur. BS2037 Class 3 and BS1129 Class 3 ladders are suitable for domestic applications. BS2037 Class 3 and BS1129 Class 3 ladders are NOT suitable for any light trades, trade or industrial applications.

The Relevant Standards

Recommendations for the design and performance of ladders are contained in the following British and European Standards:

BS EN 131: Part 1: 1993 'Ladders' Part 1. Specification for terms, types and functional sizes.

BS EN 131: Part 2: 1993 'Ladders' Part 2. Specification for requirements, testing and marking.

BS 2037: 1994. Specification for portable aluminium ladders, steps, trestles and lightweight stagings.

BS 1129: 1990. Specification for portable timber ladders, steps, trestles and lightweight stagings.



www.ladderassociation.org.uk Tel: 0845 260 1048