

Ladder training: make sure you get what it says on the tin

The Ladder Association, which represents all the major manufacturers and suppliers in the UK and Ireland, is asking companies to check that when they send delegates on a 'Ladder Association' training course, it's an approved Ladder Association training course they receive and not a poor imitation.



Stuart Hopkins

"We're hearing of an increasing number of cases where the training provider purports to be offering a Ladder Association training course, but on the day delivers a completely different and inferior course with different content and questionable outcomes," says Ladder Association training manager, Stuart Hopkins.

"When companies book a Ladder Association training course they do so on the understanding and expectation that they will benefit from an industry standard training course delivered by an accredited trainer at an approved and audited training centre. Otherwise it lacks the credibility that health and safety

professionals now demand."

"Delegates should check in advance that their intended course covers all the topics that matter, is of sufficient duration to cover them thoroughly, is limited in numbers to allow maximum participation and, upon successful completion, provides tangible proof of competence that is valid on site. Some courses barely scratch the surface and, quite frankly, are not worth the paper they are written on - if, indeed, they are written on anything!"

"Informed by the Work at Height Regulations and based on the collective knowledge and expertise of Ladder Association members -



C&A

ladders

people who know and understand ladders and speak the language - Ladder Association training combines both theory and practice, culminating in the award of a LadderCard and certificate of competence. Delegates also receive a copy of the association's Code of Practice as a constant reminder of what has been learnt."

"Both the card and certificate are endorsed with the Ladder

Association logo - immediate evidence that the user has been trained to the highest standards by the industry trade body. On many sites, no other proof will do."

"Last but not least, it's worth remembering that every delegate is brought up to date with the latest legislation and standards - and that, new for 2012, delegates watch two new videos reinforcing best practice as part of the day-long course."

New chairman for the Ladder association

Cameron Clow, 41, is the new chairman of the Ladder Association. He takes over from Chris Ball and will serve for a period of three years.



Cameron Clow

Clow is group managing director of W J Clow, the largest privately owned manufacturer of ladders and access equipment in the UK, with premises in London, Birmingham, Belfast and Glasgow.

An active and committed supporter of the association for many years, he has been a member of council since 1966 and the executive committee since 2007. He currently sits on the B512 ladder committee for British Standards and is secretary of the newly formed European Ladder Federation.

Ladder exchange changes hands

The UK's HSE has now entrusted the running and management of its annual Ladder Exchange to the Ladder Association. The association is the natural and logical home for this landmark campaign, which has created a benchmark in collaboration between the industry trade body, ladder manufacturers, suppliers and the regulatory body.

Since its launch in July 2007, the Exchange has been responsible for more than 10,000 questionable ladders being taken out of service and replaced with new ones. It was originally run for one month, but was subsequently extended to contribute to the HSE's objective of preventing death and injury as a result of falls from height, eventually becoming part of the 'Shattered Lives' campaign.

The 2012 Ladder Exchange begins on September 1st and runs for 14 weeks. More details from jill.couttie@ladderassociation.org.uk



New training videos

The association's 'Ladders and Steps' national training course now includes two DVDs intended to enhance the learning experience.

Jason Anker... A Fall From Height: The powerful message in this DVD makes it clear from the outset why attendees should sit up and pay attention. It describes his life as a paraplegic after falling just 10 feet from a ladder and sustaining a major spinal injury. In the 17 years since, Anker has come to terms with the indignities and frustrations of life as a paraplegic and his guilt and regret at failing to draw attention to a situation he knew to be hazardous. The DVD includes excerpts from his live presentation, together with testimony from his family.

Ladder Safety... The Essentials: This second DVD reinforces the essential elements of the course. It covers ladder classifications, how to decide whether a ladder or stepladder is the right piece of workplace equipment for the task at hand, situations in which you should never use a ladder and how to carry out and record ladder inspections.

You can buy a copy of either DVD from the online shop at www.ladderassociation.org.uk

