

Changes in Ladder Standards

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How will a ladder be different?

EN 131 has new requirements that will improve the safety of ladders:

Dimensional changes will improve stability

Increased strength test requirements

New requirements for ladder durability

The changes will help to improve the safety of ladders and also make buying the right ladder much simpler.

EN131 – the single European product standard covering all types of portable ladders (step, extending and combination) has been substantially revised. When a European Standard, or Euro Norme (EN) has been agreed and ratified, all CEN member countries are obliged to adopt that Standard as a national standard and withdraw, or amend, any conflicting national standards. So, the British Standards, BS 2037 and BS 1129 (often referred to as Class 1 and Class 3 ladders) now must be amended to remove conflicting products, which means that, after a transition period, certified ladders from these standards will no longer be available.



VERSION A

When & how?

How this will affect you



Different elements of EN131 (as at Jan '18)

EN131 Part 1 - relates to
Terms and Definitions
(released 1/1/2018)

EN131 Part 2 - relates to
Testing
(released 1/1/2018)

EN131 Part 3 - relates to
User Instruction
(currently under review)

EN131 Part 4 - relates to
Multi-Function Hinged
Ladders
(currently under review)

EN131 Part 6 - relates to
Telescopic Ladders
(currently under review)

EN131 Part 7 - relates to
Ladders with Platforms
(currently under review)

More standards are being developed and these will be launched in the coming years.

Visit our website for all the latest information...
www.ladders-direct.com/standards

Timetable

Part 1 and Part 2 of the revised EN131 standard were released to the European market on 1st January 2018. Revisions to other parts of the EN131 standard are currently under review and once ratified are expected to be published over the next few months. A transition period is now in place as manufacturers adapt to relevant changes and update product designs to meet the requirements of the revised standard. Ladders certified to the withdrawn British Standards, BS 2037 and BS 1129 will no longer be available after the transition period.

Can I still use my existing ladders?

Yes, product standards do not apply retrospectively. So, if they are in good condition, there is no immediate requirement to change your existing ladders just because the product standards have been revised or withdrawn.

Professional

- > You should be using the appropriate standard of ladder for the work you are undertaking - as ladders to the new standard become available, select and use ladders certified to or conforming with EN131 Professional standard

Non-Professional

- > Within a domestic environment, (eg. in your home for occasional domestic tasks), you have a choice to use either EN131 Non-Professional or EN131 Professional ladders - it's up to you. However it is important to note that ladders to the EN131 Non-Professional standard should **never be used** for work related activities or within a professional work environment.

Can I still buy ladders to old standards?

Yes, during the transition period you will still be able to buy ladders certified to BS2037, BS 1129 and the superceded EN131 as suppliers clear their existing stocks and, whilst this is perfectly acceptable, this will diminish over time as supplies are exhausted.

After that, when you do need to replace your existing ladders because they are damaged, broken or unfit for purpose, you can purchase ladders to the new standard - EN131 Professional for use within work environments or EN131 Non-Professional for use only within non-work related domestic settings.

From changing ladders to retraining

Wouldn't it just be easier to ban ladders?

No, ladders can often be a sensible and practical option for low-risk and short duration tasks and there are some situations where a ladder may be the only practical possibility. The EN131 standard will help to ensure that, whilst a ladder may not always be your first option, they remain a viable solution for work at height where alternative forms of access cannot be used.

What if my company does not want to change ladders?

Well maintained ladders in good condition can still be used. There is no need to change your existing ladders because product standards have been updated - standards do not apply retrospectively. As ladders to the new EN131 standard become available you can purchase these as and when required.

Do I need retraining on the new EN131 ladders?

Already completed a recent Ladder Training Course?

You don't need retraining to use the new style ladders (compliant with the new EN131 standard).

Not trained?

Ladder Training equips people to understand the essential points about safe use, handling and storage of ladders, together with potential hazards of their use.

You should make sure that people with sufficient skills, knowledge and experience are employed to perform the task, or, if they are being trained, that they work under the supervision of somebody competent to do it.

Why Certify?

Ladder Training Certification is an effective and widely recognised way of showing proof of training for work at height from ladders and can help you to demonstrate competence as required by regulations.

Ladder guidance

Key points to remember

If it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely



Carry out a risk assessment before deciding to use a ladder (other equipment may be more appropriate)



Ladders are suitable for low-risk AND short duration tasks (under 30mins)



Always read the user instructions and the safety labels on the ladder

**UK Ladder
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Training
Company**

LADDERS from the 
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Established 1913

For further information and guidance please contact:

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