

# American National Standard Safety Requirements for Ladder Accessories



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Secretariat

**American Ladder Institute**

Approved

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**



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# American National Standard

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# Foreword

(This foreword is not part of the American National Standard A14.8-2020)

This standard on Ladder Accessories is one of the many American National Standards prepared under the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee on Safety in Construction, Care, and Use of Ladders. A14 Subcommittees that report to the A14 Standards committee have developed the following A14 Standards: A14.1 Portable Wood Ladders; A14.2 Portable Metal Ladders; A14.3 Fixed Ladders; A14.4 Job-made Ladders; A14.5 Portable Reinforced Plastic Ladders; A14.7 Mobile Ladder Stands; A14.9 Disappearing Attic Stairways; and A14.11 Stepstools.

This standard on Ladder Accessories was prepared under the supervision of the American National Standards A14 Accredited Standards on Safety in Construction, Care, and Use of Portable Ladders.

The A14.8 Ladder Accessories sub-committee was first formed in 1990 to develop a standard that includes the most commonly used and manufactured ladder accessories. The standard was written as a guide to both manufacturers and end users alike to guide them in the proper care, use and selection of these accessories.

This first edition of the American National Standard draws from the work that was done in the existing standards. The standard prescribes both general design requirements and specific design verification test requirements for each type of accessory. The primary intent behind the design verification testing is twofold. One, to test for the strength and integrity of the accessory itself, and the other to ensure the installed accessory does not have a detrimental effect on the intended performance of the ladder it is installed to. In addition, labeling, marking and instruction requirements are covered in this standard.

In this current revision the Step through rail extension accessory has been added to the standard. This change included specifications, testing, and marking requirements specific to this ladder accessory.

Suggestions for improvement for the standard are welcome. They may be sent to American Ladder Institute, 330 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60611. All comments must be sent on the Official Comment Form that can be found on the last page of this document. Each comment must include a rationale.

This standard was proposed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the American National Standards Committee on Safety in the Construction, Care, and Use of Portable Ladders. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all the committee members voted for its approval.

At the time it approved this standard, the A14 had the following members:

Ryan Crawford, Chairman

Brett Latimer, Vice Chair

Pam O'Brien, Secretariat

<b>Organization Represented</b>	<b>Name of Representative</b>
American Insurance Association.....	George Earhart
American Ladder Institute.....	Ryan Moss
American Society of Safety Professionals.....	Michael Lorenzo
	Tim Fisher (Alt)
Associated General Contractors of American.....	Kevin Cannon
Canadian Standards Association.....	Dave Shanahan
Cosco Home and Office Products.....	Eric Kruse
	Larry Voris (Alt)
Cotterman Company.....	Don Gibson
	Pete Catlos
Ellis Fall Safety Solutions, LLC Div. Of DSC.....	Nigel Ellis
	Matt Small (Alt)
Georgia Department of Transportation.....	Sharon Weers Morales
Grainger Industrial Supply.....	John Foston
Idaho National Laboratory – Battelle Energy Alliance.....	Kathryn Jensen
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.....	David Mullen
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International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.....	Ken Seal
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International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers.....	Jerry Scarano
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Little Giant Ladder System.....	Wes Clark
Louisville Ladder, Inc.....	Mike Van Bree
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National Association of Home Builders.....	Jerry Passman
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	Matt Moore (Alt)
Risk Retention Services.....	Paul Junius
Scaffold & Access Industry Association Inc.....	Alan Kline
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State University of New York.....	George Kyanka
Steel Plate Fabricators Association.....	Greg Anderson
	John Agee (Alt)
Switalski Engineering, Inc.....	William Switalski
Technology Associates, LLC.....	Irving U. Ojalvo
	Kristopher Selgua (Alt)
TRI-ARC LLC.....	Ron Schwartz
	Eric Pucek (Alt)
Tricam Industries.....	Ben Williams
	Joe Foley (Alt)
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	Thomas Caton
	Mark Kumagai (Alt)
Ver Halen Engineering, P.C.....	Jon Ver Halen
Werner Co.....	David Pozgay
	Dale King (Alt)

The sub-committee A14.8 on Ladder Accessories which developed this standard, consists of the following members:

Tom Schmitt, Chair

Charlie Bird

Wes Clark

Nigel Ellis

Warren Faber

Don Gibson

Alan Kline

Brett Latimer

Michael Lorenzo

Mike Overholt

William Switalski

Mike Van Bree

# Contents

Updated page numbers

Section	Page
<b>1. Scope and Purpose</b> .....	1
1.1 Scope.....	1
1.2 Purpose.....	1
<b>2. General</b> .....	1
2.1 Rationale .....	1
2.2 Application .....	1
2.3 Interpretation.....	1
2.4 Mandatory and Advisory Provisions.....	2
2.5 Equivalent .....	2
2.6 Effective Date .....	2
<b>3. Related Standards</b> .....	2
<b>4. Definitions and Nomenclature</b> .....	2-5
<b>5. General Specifications</b> .....	5
5.1 Application.....	5
5.2 Quality Assurance .....	5
5.3 Corrosion .....	5
5.4 Burrs and Sharp Edges.....	5
5.5 Installation .....	5
5.6 Connections .....	5
5.7 Plastic Parts.....	5
5.8 Instructions.....	5
<b>6. Bottom End Accessories</b> .....	6-7
6.1 Ladder Feet .....	6
6.2 Spurs and Spur Plates .....	6
6.3 Ladder Levelers .....	7
<b>7. Top End Accessories</b> .....	7-10
7.1 Cable (Strand) Hooks.....	7
7.2 Roof/Ridge Hooks .....	7-8
7.3 V-Rungs.....	8
7.4 House Pads.....	8
7.5 Pole Chain and Pole Strap .....	8
7.6 Pole Lash .....	8-9
7.7 Side Rail End Covers.....	9
7.8 Stabilizers & Standoffs .....	9
7.9 Step Through Rail Extensions.....	9-10

<b>8. Miscellaneous Accessories</b> .....	10
8.1 Stabilizer Strap.....	10
8.2 Step Bracket.....	10
<b>9. Test Requirements</b> 10-19	
9.1 Ladder Feet .....	10-11
9.2 Spurs and Spur Plates .....	11
9.3 Ladder Levelers .....	12-15
9.4 Cable (Strand) Hooks.....	16
9.5 Roof/Ridge Hooks .....	16
9.6 V-Rungs, Pole Strap/Chain Supports, House Pads and Stabilizers & Standoffs.....	16-17
9.7 Side Rail End Covers .....	17
9.8 Ladder Platforms and Platform Supports (Step Brackets).....	17
9.9 Step Through Rail Extensions.....	17-19
<b>10. Labeling, Marking and Instruction Requirements</b> .....	19-20
10.1 General.....	19-20
<b>11. Labeling Performance Requirements</b> .....	20
11.1 General.....	20
11.2 Labeling Tests .....	20
<b>12. Revision of American National Standards Referred to in this Document</b> .....	21

## Tables

<b>Table 1</b> Compression Test.....	23
<b>Table 2</b> Column and Hardware Load Test.....	23
<b>Table 3</b> Static Cantilever Bending Test (Non-Self-Supporting Ladders) .....	23
<b>Table 4</b> Static Cantilever Bending Test (Self-Supporting Ladders) .....	23
<b>Table 5</b> Step Through Rail Extension Cantilever Bending Test.....	24

## Figures

<b>Figure 1</b> Foot Slip Test.....	25
<b>Figure 2</b> Stepladder Slip Test .....	26
<b>Figure 3</b> Compression Test.....	27
<b>Figure 4</b> Column and Hardware Load Test.....	28
<b>Figure 5</b> Standard Loading Block .....	29
<b>Figure 6</b> Static Leveler Cantilever Bench Test – Dual or Single Leg Leveler System.....	30
<b>Figure 7</b> Static Leveler Cantilever Bench Test – One Piece Leveler System .....	31
<b>Figure 8</b> Leveler Test Positions .....	32
<b>Figure 9</b> Static Leveler Cantilever Bending Test – Non-Self-Supporting Ladders.....	33
<b>Figure 10</b> Static Leveler Cantilever Bending Test – Self-Supporting Ladders.....	34
<b>Figure 11</b> Cyclic Leveler Load Test.....	35
<b>Figure 12</b> Inclined Side Rail Bending.....	36

<b>Figure 13</b> Cable (Strand) Hook Suspension Test .....	37
<b>Figure 14</b> Cable (Strand) Hook Diagonal Suspension Test .....	38
<b>Figure 15</b> Hook Geometry .....	39
<b>Figure 16</b> Suspended Roof/Ridge Hook Test.....	40
<b>Figure 17</b> Step Bracket Support Test.....	41
<b>Figure 18</b> Step Through Rail Extension Cantilever In and Out Test.....	42
<b>Figure 19</b> Step Through Rail Extension Cantilever Forward and Backward Test .....	43
<b>Figure 20</b> Step Through Rail Extension Column and Hardware Test.....	44
<b>Figure 21</b> Retention Test.....	45
<b>Figure 22</b> Fit Test.....	46
<b>Figure 23</b> Horizontal Handhold Spacing.....	47

## Appendices

<b>Appendix A</b> .....	48-53
<b>Appendix B</b> .....	54-55
<b>Comment / Interpretation Form</b> .....	56

# American National Standard Safety Requirements for Ladder Accessories

## 1. Scope and Purpose

### 1.1 Scope

This standard is for accessories used on individual ladders only and prescribes rules for governing the safe design, construction, and testing of accessories used in conjunction with a portable wood, metal or reinforced plastic ladder. This standard is limited to those accessories specifically defined.

Devices which may or may not be an integral part of the ladder, and without which the portable ladder cannot function in its intended manner such as hinges and hinge brackets, rung or step braces, locks and lock brackets, spreaders and top caps are not included in this standard. Replacement parts of essentially the same design and construction as the component being replaced are not included in this standard unless they are a component of the accessory itself.

It is intended that all ladders employing accessories covered by this standard comply with the requirements of the most current applicable American National Standard Safety Requirements For Portable Wood, Metal or Reinforced Plastic, ANSI A14.1, A14.2, and A14.5 respectively.

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable safety for life, limb and property. This standard may serve as a basis for purchasing requirements, instruction and training of personnel and preparation of brochures, manuals, etc., regarding safe ladder and ladder accessory use, care and maintenance.

This standard is intended to provide guidelines for the safe design and construction of ladder accessories covered by this standard. It is also intended to provide the manufacturer of ladders and ladder accessories with a set of design, performance and construction requirements to which this product may be compared. It is not the purpose of this standard to specify all the construction details or materials to be used for portable ladder accessories, but rather to provide general requirements and testing methods.

## 2. General

### 2.1 Rationale

The intent of this American National Standard for Ladder Accessories is to cover the widely accepted ladder accessories. The workloads listed in this standard are all derived from the existing A14 Standards.

### 2.2 Application

This standard is intended for voluntary use by establishments that use, distribute, or manufacture ladder accessories. It is also designed to serve as a guide to federal and state authorities or other regulatory bodies in the formulation of laws or regulations.

The proper regulatory or administrative authority shall determine the methods employed to ensure compliance with this standard.

### 2.3 Interpretation

To secure uniform application of this standard, it is recommended that suggestions involving changes in the requirements or disputes over their interpretation be referred to the following organization:

AMERICAN LADDER INSTITUTE  
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE SUITE 2000  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

In view of the many different kinds of ladder accessories and the many different conditions under which they are used, this standard should be liberally construed considering the scope and purpose. In cases of practical difficulty or under special-service conditions, it is expected that the administrative authority will grant exceptions to the literal requirements of this standard or will permit the use of alternate designs or features, but only if equivalent safety is thereby secured.