

ANSI-ASC A14.9-2010
Revision of A14.9-2004

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways



American National Standards

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways

Secretariat

American Ladder Institute

Approved April 30, 2010

American National Standards Institute, Inc.



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American National Standard

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of the American National Standard A14.9 – 2010.)

This standard is the revised version of the American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways (formerly Ceiling Mounted Disappearing Climbing Systems, ANSI A14.9-2004). It is one of a series of seven standards prepared under the supervision of the American National Standards Institute. The other safety standards include: A14.1 Portable Wood Ladders; 14.2 Metal Ladders; A14.3 Fixed Ladders; 14.4 Job-Made Ladders; A14.5 Portable Reinforced Plastic Ladders and A14.7 Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms.

All seven standards derive from the original American National Standard Safety Code for Construction, Care and Use of Ladders, A14, which was first approved in 1923. Revisions were approved over the years as required.

Subcommittee A14.9 was created for the purpose of developing rules to govern the safe design, construction, testing, care and use of permanently installed folding or collapsible fixed aluminum or wood attic ladders of various types. All parts and appurtenances necessary for safe and efficient attic ladders shall be considered integral parts of the design. The A14.9 standard was submitted to the ASC A14 Committee for review in November of 2009 and approved on April 30, 2010.

This standard does not apply where training, supervision or established safety procedures are in conflict with or serve in lieu of this standard.

Suggestions for improvement of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the ASC A14 Committee c/o the American Ladder Institute at 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2200, 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 processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by American National Standards Committee on the safety requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways, ASC A14.9. 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 ASC A14 Committee had the following members:

Erick Knox, Chairman
Don Gibson, Vice Chair
Janet Rapp, Secretariat

Organization Represented	Name of Representative
American Insurance Association	George Earhart Thomas Murray (Alt)
American Ladder Institute	Marc McConnell
American Society of Safety Engineers	Michael Lorenzo
Associated General Contractors of America	Charles Bird Michele Myers (Alt)
Canadian Standards Association	Walter Dick
Cosco Home and Office Products	Eric Kruse Terry Emerson (Alt)
Disappearing Attic Stairway Association	Dennis Williams Brad Hudspeth (Alt)
Illinois Association of Building Maintenance Contractors	Carl Pedersen James Weil (Alt)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	James Tomaseski
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades	Brian Gustine
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen	Henry Kramer Mike Kassman (Alt)
Metal Ladder Manufacturers Association	Dave Plotner Dale King (Alt)
National Fire Protection Association	Samuel C. Cramer Ronald Bennett (Alt)
National Frame Builders Association	Stan Virkler
Precision Ladders	Don McKinney Steve Richey (Alt)
Risk Retention Services	Paul B. Junius Robert G. Stuligross (Alt)
Scaffold Industry Association	Alan Kline (Alt)
Steel Plate Fabricators Association	Wallace Melvin
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission	Thomas Caton* Mark E. Kumagai* (Alt)
U.S. Dept. of Labor OSHA	Virginia Fitzner* Robert Bell* (Alt)
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*non-voting advisory member

Subcommittee A14.9 Disappearing Attic Stairways, which developed this standard, consisted of the following members:

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American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways

1. Scope and Purpose

1.1 Scope

This standard prescribes rules concerning the safe design, construction, testing, care, installation and use of permanently installed metal or wood, disappearing attic stairways of various types designed to be used for access to upper levels such as attics. Household units with duty ratings of 250, 300 and 350 lbs., or commercial units with a rating of 500 lbs. are the only units covered in this standard. This standard is not intended to apply to any attic stairway covered in any other ANSI A14 standards, or disappearing attic stairways intended for use with ceiling heights in excess of 12 feet. This standard also prescribes rules and minimum requirements for installation instructions and labeling of disappearing attic stairways in order to promote safety under normal conditions of usage.

This standard is not intended to cover requirements for fire separation that may be required by various building codes. It does not apply where training, supervision, or established safety procedures are in conflict with, or serve in lieu of, this standard.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to help provide safety for life, limb, and property by establishing standards for the design and installation of permanently installed disappearing attic stairways.

It is not the purpose of this standard to specify all the details of construction of disappearing attic stairways. The limitations imposed are for the purpose of providing adequate general methods and testing.

2. General

2.1 Application

This standard is intended for voluntary use by establishments that manufacture disappearing attic stairways. 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.

2.2 Interpretation

To secure uniform application of this standard, suggestions involving changes in the standards or disputes over its interpretation shall be referred to the following organization:

AMERICAN LADDER INSTITUTE
401 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 2200
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

In view of the different styles of disappearing attic stairways and the different circumstances under which they may be installed, this standard should be liberally construed.

2.3 Mandatory and Advisory Provisions

The word "shall" is to be understood as denoting a mandatory requirement. The word "should" is to be understood as denoting a recommendation.

2.4 Equivalent

The word "equivalent" in this standard means a construction, connection, or material providing equal performance.

2.5 Effective Date

This standard shall become effective 180 days after publication and shall apply only to products manufactured after the effective date.