

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Stepstools



American National Standards

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Secretariat

American Ladder Institute

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American National Standards Institute, Inc.



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For information on possible errata sheets and other ANSI-ASC A14 Standards please refer to the ALL website located at:

www.americanladderinstitute.org

American National Standard

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Foreword

(This foreword is not part of the American National Standard A14.11-2018)

This standard on Stepstools 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, A14.8 Ladder Accessories and A14.9 Disappearing Attic Stairways.

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

Prior to the release of this standard, wood, aluminum and fiberglass ladder-type stepstools were covered by ANSI A14.1, 14.2 & A14.5 respectively. Recognizing the existence of a wide variety of designs in the marketplace that do not fit the description of ladder-type stepstools, the A14.11 Stepstool sub-committee was first formed in the late 1990's to develop a standard that would cover all types of stepstool designs and all types of materials within one document. This standard was written as a guide to both manufacturers and end users alike to instruct in the proper design, manufacture, care, use and selection of stepstools. This first edition of this American National Standard draws largely from the work that was done in the aforementioned standards, but does include additional tests to enable proper evaluation of non-ladder-type stepstools.

This standard prescribes both general design requirements and performance requirements for stepstools. Additionally, labeling, marking and instruction requirements are covered in this standard.

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:

Dave Plotner, Chairman
Ryan Crawford, Vice Chair
Pam O'Brien, Secretariat

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

Organization Represented	Name of Representative
American Insurance Association	George Earhart
American Ladder Institute	Ryan Moss
American Society of Safety Engineers	Michael Lorenzo Tim Fisher (Alt)
Associated General Contractors of America	Charles E. Bird Kevin Cannon (Alt)
Canadian Standards Association	Dave Shanahan
Cosco Home and Office Products	Eric Kruse Larry Voris (Alt)
Cotterman Company	Don Gibson Pete Catlos (Alt)
Ellis Fall Safety Solutions, LLC Div. of DSC	J. Nigel Ellis
Grainger Industrial Supply	John Foston
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Christian Duva
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Little Giant Ladder Systems	Ben Cook
Louisville Ladder, Inc.	Tom Schmitt
National Association of Home Builders	Jerry Passman Robert Matuga (Alt)
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Precision Ladders	Don McKinney Steve Richey (Alt)
Risk Retention Services	Paul B. Junius
Scaffold Access Industry Association	Alan D. Kline
State University of New York	George H. Kyanka
Steel Plate Fabricators Association	Ken Wade
Switalski Engineering, Inc.	William Switalski
Technology Associates, LLC	Irving U. Ojalvo Kristopher Selgua (Alt)
Tri-Arc Manufacturing Co., Inc.	Ron Schwartz Eric Pucek (Alt)
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission	Thomas Caton* Mark E. Kumagai* (Alt)
Ver Halen Engineering, P.C.	Jon Ver Halen
Werner Ladder	Brett Latimer Dale King (Alt)

*non-voting advisory member

The sub-committee A14.11 on Safety Requirements for Stepstools which developed this standard, consists of the following members:

Stan Kiska, Chair
Eric Kruse
George Kyanka
Jan Livingston

Dave Plotner
Thomas Schmitt
Denny Simpson

Mike Van Bree
Jon Ver Halen

Contents

Section	Page
1. Scope and Purpose	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Purpose	1
2. General	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
3. Reference Standards	2
4. Definitions and Nomenclature	2
4.1 General	2
4.2. Wood Specific	3
5. Design Requirements	4
5.1 General	4
5.2 Plastic Parts	5
5.3 Metal Parts	6
5.4 Solid Wood Parts	6
5.5 Alternative Materials	7
6. Test Requirements	7
6.1 General	7
6.2 Compression Test	8
6.3 Step / Platform Bending Test	9
6.4 Step / Platform-to-Side Shear Strength	10
6.5 Utility Shelf Test	10
6.6 Stability Tests	10
6.7 Offset Load Stability Test	11

6.8 Lateral Bending Strength Test	11
6.9 Stepstool Slip Test	13
6.10 Step / Platform Penetration Test	13
6.11 Concentrated Platform Load Test	14
6.12 Cold Impact Test	14
6.13 Top Rail Tests	14
6.14 Accidental Folding Test*	15
6.15 Cantilever Drop Test	15
6.16 Cyclic Loading Test.	15
6.17 Elevated Temperature Tests.	16
6.18 Weatherability Tests.	16
7. Labeling Tests	16
7.1 General.	16
7.2 Tests	16
8. Selection, Use and Care	17
8.1 General.	17
8.2 Selection	17
8.3 Rules for Stepstool Use	17
8.4 Care and Maintenance	18
9. Labeling / Marking Requirements	19
9.1 General Requirements	19
9.2 Product Data Information Markings	20
9.3 Specific Marking / Labeling Requirements	20
10. American National Standards References	20
Appendix A	21
Appendix B	26
Appendix C	27
Appendix D	28
ANSI-ASC A14 Comment Form	29

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1. Scope and Purpose

1.1 Scope

This standard prescribes rules governing the safe construction, design, testing, care and use of wood, metal, plastic and reinforced plastic stepstools of various configurations for duty ratings of 200, 225, 250, 300 and 375 lbs. It applies to stepstools that resemble conventional stepladders in their appearance as well as those that do not. It does not cover stepstools that do not meet the general requirements of this standard, nor does it cover accessories that may be installed on or used in conjunction with stepstools. This standard does not apply to those products currently covered by ANSI A14.7 (Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms).

These requirements are also intended to prescribe rules and criteria for labeling/marketing of the kinds of stepstools cited in this standard. These labeling/marketing requirements do not apply to those situations where training, supervision, or documented safety procedures would be in conflict, or serve in lieu of, these labeling/marketing requirements.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable safety for life, limb, and property. In order to develop an effective safety program, the standard may serve also as a basis for purchase requirements and for instructions in personnel training, and in the preparation of motivational/instructional material such as safety practices, manuals, posters and the like.

This standard is also intended to provide the manufacturer of wood, metal, plastic and/or reinforced plastic stepstools with performance and dimensional requirements against which this product may be compared. It is not the purpose of this standard to specify all the details of construction of wood, metal, plastic and/or reinforced plastic stepstools. The limitations imposed are for the purpose of providing adequate general requirements and testing methods.

2. General

2.1 Rationale

The intent of this American National Standard for Stepstools is to establish a set of minimum design and performance requirements for all stepstools that comply with the general description for stepstools provided herein.

2.2 Application

This standard is intended for voluntary use by establishments that use, manufacture or evaluate stepstools. 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 methods employed to ensure compliance with this standard shall be determined by the proper regulatory or administrative authority.

2.3 Interpretation

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

AMERICAN LADDER INSTITUTE (ALI)
c/o SMITHBUCKLIN
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
SUITE 2000
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

In cases of practical difficulty or under special-service conditions, it is expected that the administrative authority may grant exceptions to the literal requirements of this standard or may permit the use of alternate designs or features, but only if equivalent safety is thereby secured.