

# 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 February 22, 2019

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**



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**[www.americanladderinstitute.org](http://www.americanladderinstitute.org)**

# American National Standard

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# Foreword

This standard is the revised version of the American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways A14.9 - 2010 (formerly Ceiling Mounted Disappearing Climbing Systems, ANS A14.9-2004). It is one of a series of eight 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, A14.7 Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms and A14.11 Stepstools.

All eight 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 October of 2018 and approved on February 22, 2019.

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 330 N. Wabash Avenue, 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 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:

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

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

<b>Organization Represented</b>	<b>Name of Representative</b>
American Insurance Association .....	George Earhart
American Ladder Institute .....	Ron Schwartz Marc McConnell (Alt)
American Society of Safety Engineers .....	Michael Lorenzo Tim Fisher (Alt)
Associated General Contractors of America .....	Charles E. Bird Tim Fischer (Alt)
Canadian Standards Association .....	Dave Shanahan
Cosco Home and Office Products .....	Eric Kruse Larry Voris (Alt)
Cotterman Company .....	Don Gibson Pete Catlos (Alt)
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Grainger Industrial Supply .....	Richard Martin John Foston (Alt)
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International Union of Painters and Allied Trades .....	Greg Renne Dan Penski (Alt)
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers .....	Gerald Scarano Mike Kassman (Alt)
Little Giant Ladder Systems .....	Ben Cook
Louisville Ladder, Inc. ....	Tom Schmitt
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National Frame Builders Association .....	Stan Virkler
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Precision Ladders .....	Don McKinney Steve Richey (Alt)
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State University of New York .....	George H. Kyanka
Steel Plate Fabricators Association .....	Ken Wade
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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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- Brad Hudspeth
- Dale King
- George Kyanka
- Don McKinney
- Tom Schmitt
- Mike Van Bree
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- Thomas Yeaglin

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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 (ALI)  
c/o SMITHBUCKLIN  
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE  
SUITE 2000  
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.