Ashvale Ladder - Qualitative Risk Assessment

Ref: - LRA/14

Brian Urquhart
# Ashvale Ladder - Qualitative Risk Assessment

**Date of Assessment:** 30/09/2014  
**Assessed By:** BRIAN URQUHART  
**Review Date:** Annually (Risk Assessments to be reviewed annually or when changes to equipment or procedures.)

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| Use of ladders        | Ladder user                                                                     | 1. Falls - sprains, fractures, broken bones, head injuries.  
                                      | Person securing ladder                                                       | 2. Falling objects                                                               | 3. Person falling on to another person | Prior to commencing any work ensure ladder is in good state of repair. (see checklist attached)  
                                      | Any persons in the vicinity                                                   |                                                                            | Due to the short duration of use ladders may be used for replacing light bulbs.                  |                | A               |

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|              |                | while in use.  
|              |                | • Every ladder shall be used in such a way that a secure handhold and secure support are always available to the user and the user can maintain a safe handhold when carrying a load unless in the case of a step ladder, the maintenance of a handhold is not practicable when a load is carried. | | | A |
| **Set-up for leaning ladders** | | • Do a daily pre-use check (include ladder feet)  
| | • Secure it  
| | • Ground should be firm and level, the maximum safe ground side slope 16° (level the rungs with a suitable device)  
| | • Maximum safe ground back slope 6°  
| | • Have a strong upper resting point (not plastic guttering)  
| | • Floors should be clean, not slippery | | | |
| **Leaning ladders in-use** | | • In the case of a step ladder, the maintenance of a handhold is not practicable when a load is carried; the use of a stepladder is justified only if in use for short period and carrying out a low risk activity  
| | • Short duration work maximum 30 minutes  
| | • Light work (up to 10 kg)  
| | • Ladder angle 75° – 1 in 4 rule (1 unit out for every 4 units up)  
| | • Always grip the ladder when climbing  
| | • Do not overreach - make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task.  
| | • Do not work off the top three rungs as these provide a handhold | | | |

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| Set-up for stepladders|                |                                                                             | • Daily pre-use check (feet included)  
• Ensure there is space to fully open  
• Use any locking devices  
• Ground should be firm and level  
• Floors should be clean, not slippery |                                                                                                                                        |                |                  |
| Stepladders in-use    |                |                                                                             | • Short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)  
• Light work (up to 10 kg)  
• Do not work off the top three steps for swing-back/double-sided stepladders unless you have a safe handhold on the steps  
• Avoid side-on working.  
• Do not overreach – make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task. |                                                                                                                                        |                |                  |

### Falls from height

**Ladders – pre-use checks - things to look for**

It is good practice to check your ladder before you use it. A list of checks is outlined in the following pages.

If your ladder is not up to scratch you could fall from it. You don’t have to fall far to land hard.

In 2007 to 2008 nearly 100 workers a month suffered broken bones or head injuries following a fall from a ladder. Most of them didn’t fall very far, below head height. Take a moment to check your ladder, not your fall.

If your ladder is not up to scratch tell your manager or supervisor straight away - Do not use your ladder.

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1. Leaning Ladders pre-use checks - things to look for

Check the stiles
Stiles need to be in good condition
Do not use the ladder if they are bent or split - the ladder could collapse.

Check the stiles
Do not use the ladder if they are bent or damaged - the ladder could buckle or collapse.
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<td>Check the feet</td>
<td>Do not use the ladder if they are missing or worn or damaged - the ladder could slip.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Check the rungs</td>
<td>Do not use the ladder if they are bent, missing or loose - the ladder could become unstable.</td>
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2. Step ladders pre-use checks - things to look for

Check the locking bars
Do not use the ladder if they are bent or the fixings are worn or damaged - the ladder could collapse.

Check the feet
Do not use the ladder if they are missing or worn or damaged - the ladder could slip.

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| **Check the steps or treads**  
*Do not use the ladder if they are contaminated - you must clean them first - they could be slippery.* | | | | | |
| **Check the steps**  
*Do not use the ladder if the fixings are loose - they could collapse.* | | | | | |

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**Check the stiles**  
*Do not use the ladder if they are bent or damaged - the ladder could buckle or collapse.*

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