

# **American National Standard**

safety requirements for  
job-made wooden ladders

Approved April, 2002

ANSI  
A14.4-2002-  
Revision of  
ANSI A14.4-1992

## **American National Standard Safety Requirements for Job-Made Wooden Ladders**

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Approved: April, 2002  
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Published by

**American Ladder Institute  
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Printed in the United States of America

## Foreword (This Foreword is not a part of the American National Standard A14.4.)

This standard is a revision of American National Safety Standard for Job-Made Ladders, ANSI A14.4-1992. It is one of a series of seven standards prepared under the supervision of American National Standards Committee ASC A14. All seven standards have been developed by subcommittees reporting to American National Standards Committee ASC A14. The subcommittees are: A14-1, Portable Wood Ladders; A14-2, Metal Ladders; A14-3, Fixed Ladders; A14-4, Job-Made Ladders, A14-5, Portable Reinforced Plastic Ladders, A14.7, Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms and A14.10, Special Duty Ladders.

Subcommittee A14-4 was created for the purpose of developing a safety standard covering job-made ladders used on construction sites. It had been the recommendation of the American National Standards Committee on Safety in Construction and Demolition Operations, AIO, and the ANSI Safety Technical Advisory Board that a safety standard for job-made ladders be developed by American National Standards Committee on Construction, Care, and Use of Ladders, ASC A14, and Subcommittee A14-4 on Job-Made Ladders was established by vote of the ASC A14 Standards Committee at a meeting on May 23, 1972.

Following are the most significant aspects of this current revision:

- Table 1 concerning acceptable stress-grade lumber has been updated.
- Conditional use of nominal 1-in by 4 -in cleats has been eliminated.

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, 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 Construction, Care, and Use of Ladders, ASC A14. 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:

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Erick Knox, Vice Chair  
Ron Pietrzak, Administrative Co-Secretariat  
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Subcommittee A14-4 on Job-Made Ladders, which developed this standard, had the following members:

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# American National Standard Safety Requirements for Job-Made Wooden Ladders

## 1. General

**1.1 Scope.** This safety standard is intended to prescribe minimum requirements for the construction, design, installation, and use of job-made wood ladders in order to minimize personal injuries. This standard does not cover portable manufactured ladders, permanent fixed ladders, or mobile-equipment ladders.

**1.2 Purpose.** The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable safety for life and limb during any construction or demolition operation where conditions do not permit the erection of temporary stairs or ramps. This standard provides a guide for compliance with minimum required specifications when job-made cleat wooden ladders are being constructed for temporary use on construction and demolition operations.

**1.3 Characteristics of a Job-Made Ladder.** Job-made ladders are custom-made to fit specific job situations during construction or demolition operations. Their primary purpose is to provide access to or egress from a work area. They are not intended to serve as a workstation. They are temporary in nature and serve only until a particular phase of work is completed or until permanent stairways or fixed ladders are ready for use.

**1.4 Application.** This standard is designed for voluntary adoption by contractors or to serve as a guide to governmental authorities or other regulatory bodies in the formation of laws or regulations. The methods to be employed to assure compliance with this standard shall be determined by the proper regulatory or administrative authority. To secure uniform application of this standard, it is recommended that suggestions involving changes in the requirements or questions over the interpretation of them be referred to the American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036 or to either of the organizations holding the secretariat of this standard: (1) American Ladder Institute, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611; (2) Triodyne Inc. Consulting Engineers and Scientists, 5950 W. Touhy Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-4610.

**1.5 Mandatory and Advisory Rules.** The word "shall" is to be understood as denoting a mandatory requirement. The word "should" is to be understood as denoting a recommendation.

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

## 2. Definitions

**Cleats.** Ladder crosspieces used by a person in ascending or descending a ladder. Sometimes called steps or rungs.

**Double-cleat ladder.** A job-made ladder with two side rails and a center rail, all connected with continuous cleats, and of sufficient width to allow for two-way traffic for personnel ascending and descending.

**Ladder.** A device incorporating or employing steps, rungs, or cleats on which a person may ascend or descend.

**Pitch.** The included acute angle between the horizontal plane and the ladder, measured on the side of the ladder opposite the climbing side. It is usually expressed as H/L: the horizontal (H) distance from the base of the ladder to the supporting surface divided by the working length (L) of the ladder.

**Rail.** The side members joined at intervals by either rungs, steps, cleats, or rear braces.

**Security attachments.** Materials and fasteners used to secure the base or top of the ladder to a fixed object. See Figure 10.