

**ANSI-ASC A14.4-2009**  
Revision of A14.4-2002

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



American National Standards

**ANSI-ASC® A14.4-2009**  
**Revision of ANSI A14.4 2002**

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

Secretariat

**American Ladder Institute**

Approved March 10, 2009

**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 A14.4 – 2009.)

This standard is a revision of American National Safety Standard for Job-Made Wooden Ladders, ANSI A14.4-2002. 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 Wooden Ladders, A14.5, Portable Reinforced Plastic Ladders, A14.7, Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms and A14.9, Ceiling Mounted Disappearing Climbing Systems.

Subcommittee A14.4 was created for the purpose of developing a safety standard covering job-made wooden 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 wooden ladders be developed by American National Standards Committee on Construction, Care, and Use of Ladders, ASC A14, and Subcommittee A14.4 on Job-Made Wooden 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 has been simplified by listing those acceptable lumber grades that are most commonly available, by allowing all lumber grades that meet a minimum threshold, and by allowing the use of lower grade lumber when corresponding ladder components are increased in size.
- Engineering calculations were made affirming the grades and sizes specified in Tables 1, 2 and 3.
- Language on safe use of ladders was simplified for clarity and consistency with other standards.
- Figures were revised with dimensioning details adjusted to coincide with other standards and safer recommended practice.

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:

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

<b>Organization Represented</b>	<b>Name of Representative</b>
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
Illinois Association of Building Maintenance Contractors .....	Carl Pedersen James Weil (Alt)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers .....	James Tomaseski
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International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen .....	Henry Kramer Mike Kassman (Alt)
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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission .....	Thomas Caton* Mark E. Kumagai (Alt)*
U.S. Department of Labor OSHA .....	Virginia Fitzner* Robert Bell (Alt)*
Independent Specialists.....	Donald Blowski John E. Johnson George H. Kyanka Irving Ojalvo Steven Cramer

\*non-voting advisory member

Subcommittee A14.4 on Job-Made Wooden Ladders, which developed this standard, had the following members:

- Steven Cramer, Chairman
- David Allie
- Charlie Bird
- Peter Ruvalcaba
- Mike Van Bree
- Dan Zarletti

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

## 1. General

### 1.1 Scope

This safety standard prescribes minimum requirements and recommendations for the construction, design, installation, and use of job-made wooden ladders in order to minimize personal injuries. This standard does not cover portable manufactured or portable job-made 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 are not practical or permit the erection of temporary stairs or ramps. This standard provides a guide for compliance with minimum required specifications when job-made wooden ladders are being constructed for temporary access 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. Job-made access ladders are not intended to serve as a work station. 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 the secretariat of this standard: American Ladder Institute, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

### 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. Related Standards

This standard is intended for use in conjunction with the following American National Standards or latest revision:

Standard Specifications for Adhesives for Structural Laminated Wood Products, ASTM D2559-2004

National Institute of Standards and Technology, American Softwood Lumber Standard, PS 20-05

## 3. Definitions

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

**Double-cleat ladder.** A job-made wooden 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.