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ANSI-ASC A14.9-2019

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Disappearing Attic Stairways

American National Standards

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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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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, ANSI 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

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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	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)
Ellis Fall Safety Solutions, LLC Div. of DSC	J. Nigel Ellis
	Cody Snyder (Alt)
Grainger Industrial Supply	Richard Martin
	John Foston (Alt)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Christian Duva
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades	Greg Renne
	Dan Penski (Alt)
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftsworkers	Gerald Scarano
	Mike Kassman (Alt)
Little Giant Ladder Systems	Ben Cook
Louisville Ladder, Inc.	Tom Schmitt
National Association of Home Builders	Jerry Passman
	Robert Matuga (Alt)
National Frame Builders Association	Stan Virkler
NIOSH	Peter Simeonov, Ph. D
	Hongwei Hsiao, Ph. D (Alt)
Precision Ladders	Don McKinney
	Steve Richey (Alt)
Risk Retention Services	Paul B. Junius
	Robert G. Stuligross (Alt)
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)

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World/General Window Cleaning Companies
(formerly Illinois Association of Building Maintenance Contractors). . . . . Carl Pedersen
Noa W. Pedersen (Alt)
Independent Specialists. . . . . Dr. Donald Bloswick

*non-voting advisory member

Subcommittee A14.9 Disappearing Attic Stairways, which developed this standard, consisted of the following members:

Jon Ver Halen, Chair

Andy Davis
Brad Hudspeth
Dale King
George Kyanka
Don McKinney
Tom Schmitt
Mike Van Bree
Dennis Williams
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.