

Specification for

Loft ladders

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Technical Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering (B/-) to Technical Committee B/512, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Aluminium Federation
Association for Consumer Research (ACRE)
British Hardware and Housewares Manufacturers' Association
British Ladder Manufacturers' Association
British Plastics Federation
British Telecommunications plc
Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
Electricity Industry in United Kingdom
Health and Safety Executive
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
National Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lighting Conductor Engineers
Refractory Contractors' Association

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Technical Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 31 January 1992

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference B/512
Draft for comment 90/16695 DC
Draft for comment 91/16296 DC

ISBN 0 580 20493 6

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
7417	December 1992	Indicated by a sideline in the margin

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Technical Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering following a request by the Department of Trade and Industry, Consumer Safety Unit.

There is at present no work on this subject in Technical Committee TC 93 "Ladders" of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

Portable timber ladders are covered by BS 1129, portable aluminium ladders by BS 2037 and step stools by BS 7377.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations. Nevertheless, this British Standard has been submitted for approval under the Approval of Safety Standards Regulations 1987 as a means of compliance with the general safety requirement imposed by Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for construction and performance for loft ladders.

NOTE 1 General information on the test procedures required by this standard is given in Appendix A. Advice on use of plastics materials is given in Appendix J.

NOTE 2 The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definitions apply.

2.1

loft ladder

a ladder designed to be permanently fixed at its top end with sliding or hinged sections permitting it to be lowered to and raised from a lower level to provide access to a loft or similar point at a higher level

2.2

duty rating

maximum combined weight of user and load

2.3

rung

horizontal climbing support with a circular cross section, or with a basically circular cross section with a flat top

2.4

tread

horizontal climbing support with a rectangular cross section

2.5

stiles

the side members to which the rungs, treads or cross-bearers are fitted

2.6

horns

portions of the stile at each end beyond the lowest and the highest rung or tread

3 Classification of duty rating

The ladders covered by this standard shall be classified according to the general domestic conditions and probable frequency of use for which they are suitable, as follows:

- a) *Heavy use (class H)*. For relatively high frequency and onerous conditions of use and storage. Duty rating 150 kg (23.6 stones).

- b) *General use (class G)*. For relatively low frequency and non-onerous conditions of use and storage. Duty rating 100 kg (15.7 stones).

4 Marking

4.1 Ladders shall be clearly and durably marked with the information specified in **4.2** and **4.3**. Compliance shall be checked by inspection and by rubbing the marking lightly, first for 15 s with a cloth soaked in water and then for 15 s with a cloth soaked in petroleum spirit. There shall be no reduction in legibility at the conclusion of the test. Adhesive labels, where used, shall not have worked loose or become curled at the edges.

Tie on labels shall not be used to provide the information specified in **4.2** and **4.3**.

4.2 All ladders shall be marked with the following:

- a) the name, trade mark or other means of identification of the manufacturer or supplier;
- b) the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 7553:1992¹⁾;
- c) the class and duty rating, e.g. "Class H — Heavy use; rating 150 kg (23.6 stones) max".

4.3 Loft ladders shall be provided with a label displaying at least the following wording on a background coloured blue for class H, and red for class G.

"Use in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Ensure installation is in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Never use damaged equipment.

Ensure both feet of ladder are firm and level.

Ensure all locks are engaged.

Keep a secure grip.

Check clearance at top and access

Avoid electrical hazards."

¹⁾ Marking BS 7553:1992 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is therefore solely the responsibility of the person making the claim. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third party certification of conformity, which may also be desirable.