

Ladders

Part 3: User Instructions

ICS 97.145

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 131-3:2007.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee B/512, Ladders.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 July 2008

© BSI 2008

ISBN 978 0 580 53816 2

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Comments

EUROPEAN STANDARD
NORME EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 131-3

May 2007

ICS 97.145

English Version

Ladders - Part 3: User Instructions

Echelles - Partie 3: Informations destinées à l'utilisateur

Leitern - Teil 3: Benutzerinformation

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 22 March 2007.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

Management Centre: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

© 2007 CEN All rights of exploitation in any form and by any means reserved
worldwide for CEN national Members.

Ref. No. EN 131-3:2007: E

Contents

Page

Foreword.....	3
1 Scope	4
2 Normative references	4
3 Terms and definitions	4
4 Provision of user instructions.....	5
5 Reasons for accidents	5
6 Marking	6
6.1 Leaning ladders	6
6.1.1 Pictograms	6
6.1.2 Correct angle indicator	6
6.2 Standing ladders.....	6
6.3 Useable rungs or treads.....	7
6.4 Other marking information for all ladders.....	7
7 User instructions	7
7.1 General.....	7
7.2 Before use	8
7.3 Positioning and erecting the ladder.....	8
7.4 Using the ladder.....	9
7.5 Repair, maintenance and storage	9
Annex A (informative) Examples of pictograms	10
A.1 General.....	10
A.2 Example pictograms.....	10
Bibliography	22

Foreword

This document (EN 131-3:2007) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 93 "Ladders", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2007, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2007.

It is intended that user instructions for loft ladders and ladder accessories be given in the standards for those products.

This European Standard is one of a series about ladders. Other standards of this series are listed in the Bibliography.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

1 Scope

This European Standard advises on the safe use of ladders covered by the scope of EN 131-1 and fulfilling the requirements of EN 131-1, EN 131-2 and, for single or multiple hinged-joint ladders, EN 131-4 used as standing or leaning ladders.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Not applicable

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

**3.1
producer**
(a) manufacturer of a product and any other person presenting himself as the manufacturer by affixing to the product his name, trade mark or other distinctive mark, or the person who reconditions the product

(b) other professionals in the supply chain, insofar as their activities may affect the safety properties of a product

**3.2
distributor**
professional in the supply chain whose activity does not affect the safety properties of a product

**3.3
owner**
person or company buying or receiving the ladder

NOTE The owner can use the ladder himself, or he can make the ladder available for other users

**3.4
user**
person using the ladder

**3.5
harm**
physical injury or damage to health of people or damage to property or the environment

**3.6
hazard**
potential source of harm

**3.7
risk**
probable rate of occurrence of a hazard causing harm and the degree of severity of the harm

4 Provision of user instructions

The producer shall be responsible for the content of the user instructions and the provision of the instructions with each ladder.

The distributor should ensure that the user instructions are provided with each ladder.

The ladder owner should ensure that user instructions are available to the user.

The instructions shall be in the language of the country where the ladder is sold.

5 Reasons for accidents

The following list of hazards and examples of their causes, which is not exhaustive, are common reasons for accidents encountered when using ladders and are the basis on which the information in this standard has been developed:

a) Loss of stability:

- 1) incorrect positioning of the ladder (such as incorrect angle for leaning ladder or not fully opening a standing ladder);
- 2) slide outwards at the bottom (such as bottom of the ladders sliding away from the wall);
- 3) side slip, falling sideways and top flip (such as overreaching or fragile top contact surface);
- 4) condition of the ladder (such as missing anti-slip feet);
- 5) stepping off an unsecured ladder at height;
- 6) ground conditions (such as unstable soft ground, sloping ground, slippery surfaces or contaminated solid surfaces);
- 7) adverse weather conditions (such as windy conditions);
- 8) collision with the ladder (such as vehicle or door);
- 9) incorrect choice of ladder (such as too short, unsuitable task).

b) From handling:

- 1) transferring the ladder to the work position;
- 2) erecting and dismantling the ladder;
- 3) carrying items up the ladder.

c) Slip trip and fall of user:

- 1) inappropriate footwear;
- 2) contaminated rungs or steps;
- 3) unsafe user practices (such as climbing 2 rungs at time, sliding down stiles).

d) Structural failure of ladder:

- 1) condition of the ladder (such as damaged stiles, wear);
- 2) overloading the ladder.

e) Electrical hazards:

- 1) unavoidable live working (e. g. fault finding);
- 2) positioning ladders too close to live electrical equipment (such as overhead power lines);
- 3) ladders damaging electrical equipment (such as covers or protective insulation);
- 4) incorrect selection of type of ladder for electrical work.

6 Marking

6.1 Leaning ladders

6.1.1 Pictograms

The basic information that shall be included, as an easily viewed pictogram, marked on all ladders that are designed to be used as leaning ladders is:

- a) read the instructions (example Figure A.1);
- b) maximum load (example Figure A.2);
- c) correct angle of erection (example Figure A.3);
- d) erect on a level base (example Figure A.4);
- e) do not over-reach (example Figure A.5);
- f) ensure ground is free from contaminants (example Figure A.6);
- g) erect on a firm base (example Figure A.7);
- h) ladder extension above landing point (example Figure A.8);
- i) do not step off the side of a ladder (example Figure A.9);
- j) use the ladder the correct way up [only if necessary due to design of ladder] (example Figure A.22).

6.1.2 Correct angle indicator

Each ladder designed to be used as a leaning ladder should have an indicator to show when it is erected at the correct angle.

6.2 Standing ladders

The basic information that shall be included, as an easily viewed pictogram, marked on all ladders that are designed to be used as standing ladders is:

- a) read the instructions (example Figure A.1);
- b) maximum load (example Figure A.2);
- c) erect on a level base (example Figure A.4);
- d) fully opened before use (example Figure A.17);
- e) do not overreach (example Figure A.5);
- f) erect on a firm base (example Figure A.7);
- g) do not step off the side of a ladder (example Figure A.9);
- h) ensure restraint devices are engaged [if fitted] (example Figure A.21).