

Issue: October 2017

Portable Ladders

This Guidance Note has been issued to highlight the changes to the proposed new British Standard EN131, covering all types of portable ladders. These changes are designed primarily to address ladder stability, durability and introduce a classification of "use" which is different to the old standard.

Timetable

The revised EN131 ladder standards are due to be introduced to the European market from the 1st January 2018. A transition period will be in place after the introduction of the new standard to allow manufacturers to adapt to the changes.

New Ladder Classification:

In the proposed standard, ladders will be classified as:

- "EN131 Professional" - (workplace use).
- "EN131 Non-Professional" - (domestic use).

The following three classifications under the old standard will be withdrawn:



BS EN131 is the UK's version of EN131.

All ladders will have the same capacity of **150kg** min.

Transition Period: During this period, you will still be able to buy ladders certified to the withdrawn standards as suppliers clear their stocks.

Ladder Guidance: Ladders are a means of access and do not provide a suitable place of work except for low risk, short duration tasks.

- Assess the risks before deciding to use a ladder;
- Always use the ladder in accordance with instructions and safety labels;
- Always maintain three points of contact
- Ensure persons are trained in the use of ladders or ensure they are supervised;
- Ensure ladders are inspected & maintained in good condition.

Purchasing: update your purchasing policy to specify EN131 Professional Ladders when your company needs to replace existing ladders or buy new ladders.

Note: There is no legal requirement for a ladder to carry a CE mark.

Existing Ladders: There is no immediate requirement to change your existing ladders. Product standards do not apply retrospectively so your existing BS2037 / BS1129 Class 1 & 3 and EN131 ladders are perfectly legal and fit for use as long as they are in good condition and fit for purpose.



BS EN131