

Are you taking the right steps?

The product standards for portable ladders are changing

BS EN 131 – the single British and European product standard covering all types of portable ladders has been substantially revised. The changes that come with this revision will help improve the safety of ladders and make buying the right ladder simpler.

Confused about what this means for you?

These changes will affect everyone involved with ladders, from users and specifiers to suppliers and health & safety professionals.

How will a ladder be different?

The changes will help to improve the safety of ladders and also make buying the right ladder much simpler. BS EN 131* – the single British & European product standard covering all types of portable ladders (step, extending and combination) has been substantially revised.

When a European Standard, or Euro Norme (EN) has been agreed and ratified, all CEN member countries are obliged to adopt that Standard as a national standard, in our case, as a British Standard (BS) and withdraw, or amend, any conflicting national standards.

So, the British Standards, BS 2037 and BS 1129 (often referred to as Class 1 and Class 3 ladders) now must be amended to remove conflicting products, which means that, after a transition period, certified ladders from these standards will no longer be available.



* BS EN 131 is the UK's version of EN 131



Timetable

The revised EN 131 standards are now published and manufacturers are in the process of changing over to new designs, which meet the requirements of the revised standard. Ladders certified to the withdrawn British Standards, BS 2037 and BS 1129 (often referred to as Class 1 and Class 3 ladders) will no longer be available after a transition period. ¹

¹ <https://ladderassociation.org.uk/en131/>

Developer lands £200k fine for CDM breaches



The owner of a block of flats has been fined £200,000 after allowing work on an unsafe site to restart after a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector had served him enforcement notices.

In October 2016, a member of the public raised concerns about conditions at the building site in Mitcham, south London and alerted the HSE.

HSE inspector Andrew Verrall-Withers visited Pitcairn Road and found workers demolishing a two-storey block of flats in preparation for the construction of six flats.

He told IOSH Magazine: "I entered the building and noted that it had been partly demolished and that debris was lying around the site. When I asked if there was any asbestos in the building I was told there wasn't but they could not tell me why they knew this. Due to this and the unsafe work at height I immediately prohibited work at the site."

The HSE subsequently identified that asbestos was present in the building but the workers had not disturbed it. "They didn't know it was there, the owner had not carried out a survey and no one had asked about asbestos being on the site," said the inspector.

Verrall-Withers served two prohibition notices on the contractor for asbestos and work at height. He also served two improvement notices on the property's owner Selliah Sivaneswaran, one to provide welfare facilities and the other to secure the site.

Sivaneswaran hired a professional company to remove the asbestos. However, no work was allowed until he had resolved the work at height. "Effectively, they were going up on the roof and demolishing by hand without any scaffolding or [fall protection] measures," said Verrall-Withers.

At this stage, the contractor pulled out of the project. "He was no longer involved in the project, which meant that technically he couldn't have breached the notices served on him," said the inspector.

When the inspector returned in November, Sivaneswaran had put up fencing to prevent public access to the site and, although no welfare had been provided, no work had been carried out since the HSE's first visit.

Verrall-Withers provided the owner with written advice on his duties and where he could obtain guidance. He also strongly advised the owner to contact him before any further work took place and before engaging another contractor.

Verrall-Withers said that he revisited the site several times and found no activity. However, on 3 January he received a phone call from the same complainant informing him work had restarted and the standards were still poor.

The next day, the inspector returned and found that demolition work had continued. Sivaneswaran had paid cash to untrained migrant workers, who had climbed on to the unguarded roof and thrown debris down with their hands. They were at risk of falling up to 4 m through holes in the floor and from the partly-demolished staircase.

Verrall-Withers said the worker supervising had now been engaged as a contractor. "Sivaneswaran hadn't appointed anyone in writing," he said. "I had already written to him and said that the worker supervising, who I'd met in October, had no health and safety training, had been working dangerously on the roof and should not be left to supervise the work".

The inspector added that Sivaneswaran had not appointed a principal contractor. He had also failed to engage a site manager and provided none of the required site documentation. He served a prohibition notice, closing the site down until a suitable contractor was appointed.

Selliah Sivguru Sivaneswaran, of Harlyn Drive, Pinner, pleaded guilty to breaching reg 13(1) and 4(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 at an earlier hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 25 July but the judge delayed the sentencing to 30 August, so he could consider the case and to give Sivaneswaran time to provide financial records.

Two days before the August hearing, Verrall-Withers was alerted that the fencing securing the site had been removed, allowing public access to an unsafe site. On arrival, he found the site was not secured and some demolition work had been carried out since 4 January, after work had been prohibited.

He said that the work was probably carried out before the defendant had pleaded guilty in July but the removal of the fencing was recent and the prosecution introduced it as an aggravating factor: "It was unusual. Someone had had a case put to them, had pleaded guilty and then committed a further related offence at the same site," he said.

The judge fined Sivaneswaran £200,000 and ordered him pay £1,421 in costs. Verrall-Withers said that the judge had told the court that had anyone been injured or worse, the defendant would have faced a prison sentence. The fine reflected Sivaneswaran's early guilty plea and the fact that it was his first offence.¹

¹ <https://www.ioshmagazine.com/article/update-developer-lands-ps200k-fine-cdm-breaches>

GO HOME HEALTHY - Everyone should go home healthy from work. Do the right thing by protecting your workers' health

The HSE launched a new campaign earlier this week at @H_S_E's first annual conference. Find out how to #WorkRight

<http://bit.ly/2xi1y0D> ¹



¹
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gohomehealthy/index.htm>

Scaffold inspectors caught faking safety certificates

Two scaffold inspectors have been prosecuted after a worker fell through a gap on a structure they had signed off as safe.

Greater Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how on 26th March 2014, the 49-year old worker was working on a re-roofing project.

As he stepped down from the untiled roof onto a fixed scaffold, he fell through a gap between the working platform of the scaffolding and the building.

He suffered fracture injuries to his spine and had to wear a back brace for eight weeks.

The scaffolding had been signed off as safe for use by Stephen Harper and Garry Arnold.

An HSE investigation revealed that they had not carried out the relevant inspections and had falsified the certificates to show that all was safe for use.

Speaking after the hearing HSE Inspector Matt Greenly said: "Scaffold Inspectors are relied upon by workers and must be trusted.

"Falsely completing reports without carrying out a thorough inspection can lead to serious risks being missed and life changing accidents occurring."

Harper of Alkrington, Middleton and Arnold of Crookes, Sheffield, pleaded guilty to safety breaches and were each sentenced to 170 hours community service and ordered to pay £1,500 costs.¹

¹
<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2017/09/25/scaffold-inspectors-caught-faking-safety-certificates/>

Need to Know news...

Whats new in 2017

Please find the Lincsafe (Health & Safety) latest training dates for 2017 & 2018 (so far), at our offices in Lincolnshire, between Lincoln & Scunthorpe. All prices inc Books and Certification; If you would like further information on Lincsafe (Health & Safety) courses please contact our office.

Asbestos Awareness Cat A UKATA – Initial in the Morning and Refresher in the afternoon.

~~24th April – Initial £65per person – Refresher £50per person.+VAT~~

6th November – Initial £65per person – Refresher £50per person.+VAT

IOSH Managing Safely 4 day course

~~October – 9th,10th,16th,17th – 2017 £465+VATpp~~

January 16, 17, 23 & 24– 2018 –£465+VATp.p.

IOSH Managing Safely Refresher 1 day

~~13th Feb £150pp+VAT~~

~~14th July £150pp+VAT~~

20th October £150pp+VAT

IOSH Working Safely 1 Day course

~~30th June – £120pp+VAT~~

24th November – £120pp+VAT

CSkills SMSTS 5 Day course

~~June 1,2,8,9,16 – £500pp +VAT~~

~~September 4,5,11,12,18 – £500pp+VAT~~

December 4,5,6,11,12 £500p.p.+VAT

February 12,13,19,20,26 £500p.p.+VAT

CSkills SMSTS Refresher 2 Day course

~~3rd & 4th – April – £290pp+VAT~~

~~12th & 13th July – £290pp+VAT~~

~~September 28th & 29th – £290pp+VAT~~

November 16th & 20th – £290p.p.+VAT

January 29th & 30th 2018 - £290p.p+VAT

CSkills SSSTS 2 day Course

~~19th & 20th June – £290pp+VAT~~

27th & 28th November – £290pp+VAT

CSkills SSSTS Refresher 1 day Course

~~9th May £180+VAT per person~~

~~11th July £180+VAT per person~~

IOSH Safety for Executives & Directors 1 day course.

~~15th February 2017 – £140pp +VAT.~~

~~14th June 2017 – £140pp + VAT.~~

All prices inc Books and Certification; if you would like further information please contact our Lincolnshire office on:-

01673 876 150

or

djl@lincsafe.co.uk

If you use the Checklists and forms from the CITB / Cskills GE700 booklet and would like to download them for free please find them here on the following link from the CITB website:-
<http://www.citb.co.uk/publications/companion-websites/ge-700-companion/checklists-and-forms/>