

If you have any queries or questions please ask before ordering, to ensure your size, type etc is correct. 0800 1973839

Ladder Standards

Ladder and Step weight loadings are expressed in two ways Maximum Load & Duty Ratings which can cause confusion.

This variation is due to the different standards expressing different loadings. In the British Standard 1129 & 2037 it is a "Duty rating" that is quoted. These take into account the general conditions and probable frequency of use for each type and are the recommended "Safe Working Loads" for that frequency use (Domestic - Once a Week, Trade - Daily light use, Industrial – Continuous)

The European Standard expresses a "Maximum vertical static load". This loading does not take into account frequency or conditions and is better viewed as the "Test Load" rather than an implied safe working load. To help clarify this, some products are dual labelled.

British Standard 2037 (Aluminium) & 1129 (Wood) are split into product sub categories (1- Industrial ,2 - Trade & 3 - Domestic). Where as the European standard EN131 (or BSEN131) is not, though products are still graded with regard to suitability of use, Domestic, Trade & Industrial.

- **BS2037 & BS1129 Class 1 (Industrial)**

Heavy Industrial Use – Blue Labelling

Duty rating 150kg (26.5 stone) - Maximum vertical static load 175kg.

- **EN 131 or BSEN131 (BS2037 & 1129 Class 2 is no longer used)**

Product uses are categorised to either Domestic, Trade or Industrial.

(NOT ALL EN131 PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR TRADE USE)

Duty rating 115kg (18 stone) - Maximum vertical static load 150kg.

- **BS2037 Class 3 (Domestic)**

Domestic DIY Use. Personnel & private use only. – Red Labelling

Duty rating 95kg (15 stone) - Maximum vertical static load 125kg.

It is important that you choose equipment that best fit your needs.

If you are using a ladder or step as part of your or someone's job, using a Domestic product is not advisable as they are not suitable by design for any employed tasks however infrequent they are, irrespective of the condition or age of the product.

IF IN DOUBT PLEASE ASK, our advice is FREE.

Do's

- DO** wear strong, flat shoes or boots, with dry soles and a good grip
- DO** keep your body facing the ladder at all times, centred between the stiles
- DO** move the ladder to avoid overstretching, and re-secure it whenever necessary, however frustrating that might be.
- DO** keep both hands free to hold the ladder while you're climbing or descending - if you need to carry any tools, use a shoulder bag, belt holster or belt hooks.
- DO** hold onto the ladder with one hand while you work. You can get special trays which fit between the stiles to take paint pots, tools etc. Remember three point of contact (two feet one hand).
- DO** make sure a door or window is locked, blocked or guarded by someone if you're up a ladder in front of it
- DO** secure your ladder at the top whenever possible

Don'ts

- DON'T** wear inappropriate footwear, like sandals, mules or have bare feet on a ladder
- DON'T** reach too far forwards or sideways, or stand with one foot on the ladder and the other one on something else
- DON'T** carry heavy items or long lengths of material up a ladder
- DON'T** use a ladder in a strong wind
- DON'T** use a ladder or step on soft ground, board it out
- DON'T** use a ladder near any power lines
- DON'T** use a step-ladder side on
- DON'T** stand on the very top of a step

Working at Height Regulations

Between 50-60 people each year die as a result of using ladders and steps. The aim of these regulations is to reduce this by refocusing users attention when they are at height.

Firstly, you should aim to avoid all work at height wherever possible.

If working at height is unavoidable then you should do so in the safest possible way by using the equipment that is best suited to doing this.

Consider with care the tasks involved and all potential hazards and risks during your risk assessment.

Be wary of replacing one hazard with another by making a snap decision. For example when using a step-ladder there may be a risk of over balancing, which is easily overcome by proper use. A folding room scaffold may seem initially a safer option to the step, but improper assess and egress on and off the platform poses a hazard and as the user has a risk of inadvertently stepping off the platform, which is only overcome with the addition of a handrail – (sold separately to most 0.6m room scaffold kits). So 1 risk has been replaced by 3 equally dangerous hazards.

Users need to be suitably trained & competent.

There should be a formal inspection procedure of equipment, however this does not detract from the users responsibility to inspect the equipment prior to each use.

There is a FREE short guide to the working at Height Regulations available to download at www.hse.gov.uk/falls/wahr.htm

The use of ladders and steps is not banned, however our equipment must be used responsibly, in a safe and proper manner to prevent injury.

IF IN DOUBT ASK – OUR ADVICE IS FREE