ANSI-ASC A14.3-2008
Revision of A14.3-2002

American National Standard for Ladders – Fixed – Safety Requirements

American National Standards

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Secretariat
American Ladder Institute

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American National Standard

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of the American National Standard A14.3 – 2008.)

This standard is a revision of American National Safety Standard for Fixed Ladders, ANSI A14.3-2002. It is one of a series of seven standards prepared under the supervision of American National Standards Committee ASC A14. All seven standards have been developed by subcommittees reporting to American National Standards Committee ASC A14. The subcommittees are: A14.l, Portable Wood Ladders; A14.2, Metal Ladders; A14.3, Fixed Ladders; A14.4, Job-Made Ladders, A14.5, Portable Reinforced Plastic Ladders, A14.7, Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms, and A14.9, Ceiling Mounted Disappearing and Climbing Systems.

All seven standards derive from the original American National Standard Safety Code for Construction, Care and Use of Ladders, A14, which was first approved in 1923. Revisions were approved in 1935, 1948, 1952, 1984, 1992, and 2002. Prior to the 1948 revision, the Code contained some treatment of metal and fixed ladders. Requirements for these types of ladders were removed from the 1948 revision, which then became the American National Standard for Wood Ladders, ANSI A14.1 – 1948, because, in the opinion of the committee, the rapid development in the metal ladder field warranted special consideration and treatment of metal ladders and fixed ladders (usually metal) in separate standards.

Subcommittee A14.3 was created for the purpose of reviewing the data on fixed ladders originally contained in the Code prior to the 1948 revision, and making any changes or additions necessary to conform to the requirement of interested groups. The A14.3 standard was submitted to the ASC A14 Committee for letter ballot in December of 1955 and approved in 1956. A revision was published in 1974, 1984, 1992, and 2002.

This revision addresses a new section on ladder security systems, and changes to graspability in roof hatches, modifications of ladder safety systems, maintenance, use and additional figures to assist document users.

Suggestions for improvement of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the ASC A14 Committee c/o the American Ladder Institute at 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. All comments must be sent on the Official Comment Form that can be found on the last page of this document. Each comment must include a rationale.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by American National Standards Committee on the safety requirements for fixed ladders, ASC A14. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all the committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the A14 Committee had the following members:

Erick Knox, Chairman
Don Gibson, Vice Chair
Ron Pietrzak, Secretariat

Organization Represented	**Name of Representative**
American Insurance Association	George Earhart
American Ladder Institute	Marc McConnell
American Society of Safety Engineers	Earnest Harper
	Michael Lorenzo (Alt)
Associated General Contractors of America	Charles Bird
	Michele Myers (Alt)
Canadian Standards Association	Walter Dick
Cosco Home and Office Products	Eric Kruse
	Terry Emerson (Alt)
Disappearing Attic Stairway Association	Dennis Williams
	Brad Hudspeth (Alt)
Illinois Association of Building Maintenance Contractors	Carl Pedersen
	James Weil (Alt)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	James Tomaseski
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades	Dan Penski
	Mike Metz (Alt)
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen	Anthony Kassman
Metal Ladder Manufacturers Association	Dave Plotner
	Dale King (Alt)
National Fire Protection Association	Samuel C. Cramer
	Ronald Bennett (Alt)
National Frame Builders Association	Stan Virkler
Precision Ladders	Don McKinney
	Steve Richey (Alt)
Risk Retention Services	Paul B. Junius
	Robert G. Stuligross (Alt)
Scaffold Industry Association	Alan Kline (Alt)
Steel Plate Fabricators Association	Wallace Melvin
Underwriter's Laboratories	Edgar Wolff-Klammer
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission	Thomas Caton*
	Mark E. Kumagai (Alt)*
U.S. Department of Labor OSHA	Virginia Fitzner*
	Robert Bell (Alt)*
Independent Specialists	Donald Bloswick
	John E. Johnson
	George H. Kyanka
	Irving Ojalvo
	Steven Cramer

*non-voting advisory member

Subcommittee A14.3 on Safety Requirements for Fixed Ladders, which developed this standard, had the following members:

James D. Smith, Chairman

Ronald Bennett
J. Nigel Ellis
Donald Bloswick
Tom Wolner
Sharon Morales
Thomas Bresnahan

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1. General

1.1 Scope

This standard prescribes minimum requirements for the design, construction, and use of fixed ladders, and sets forth requirements for cages, wells, and ladder safety systems used with fixed ladders, in order to minimize personal injuries. All parts and appurtenances necessary for a safe and efficient ladder shall be considered integral parts of the design.

1.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this standard is to provide safety for life, limb, and property by establishing minimum standards for the design and installation of fixed ladders.

1.3 Application.

The methods employed to ensure compliance with this standards shall be determined by the proper regulatory or administrative authority.

1.4 Pitch.

This standard covers fixed ladders within the pitch range of 60 to 90 degrees from the horizontal.

1.4.1 Preferred Pitch. The preferred pitch of fixed ladders shall be considered to be within the range of 75 to 90 degrees from the horizontal (See Fig. 1).

1.4.2 Substandard Pitch. Fixed ladders shall be considered substandard if they are installed within the substandard pitch range of 60 to 75 degrees from the horizontal.

1.4.3 Pitch Greater Than 90 Degrees. Ladders having a pitch in excess of 90 degrees from the horizontal shall not be permitted.

1.5 Exceptions

1.5.1 This standard is intended for application to the types of fixed structures depicted and described in the standard (i.e., buildings, wells, and shafts). It sets forth the criteria (what is needed) necessary to build a fixed ladder in a certain way and manner (how to build). The standard does not contemplate special or unique (as to where and when) applications of the requirements, although individual requirements, or a combination of requirements, may apply universally.

1.5.2 This standard establishes requirements for fixed ladders in order to promote a greater degree of standardization. In cases where difficulty is encountered in complying with the standard, or where there are special service conditions, it is expected that the administrative authority will grant exceptions from the literal requirements of the standards, or will permit the use of alternative designs or features, if equivalent safety is thereby secured (see 1.9).

1.6 Existing Installation

1.6.1 The requirements of this standard shall not apply to existing installations, provided they meet one of the following conditions:

(1) The installation was made in compliance with a state, federal, or consensus standard that was in existence and applicable at the time of installation, and documentation is available to substantiate this.

(2) The installation differs from the design measurements of this standard by a degree, determined by an individual competent in structural design, such that its performance will not substantially deviate from the requirements of this standard.

1.6.2 If the existing installation is subsequently modified or replaced, or if repairs on more than 25 percent of the total unit are required, the installation shall be made to conform to the requirements of this standard.