

APPENDIX 2

(para 12)

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR THE STEPLADDERS AND LEANING LADDERS BASELINE PROFORMA

Questions 7 and 15

Classes of ladders and stepladders:

Domestic ladders or stepladders are class 3 and are either BS2037:1994 for aluminium or BS1129 for wooden. The advice label on the ladder is red.

Ladders suitable for industrial use are either class 1 or EN131 (formerly class 2).

Class 1 ladders or stepladders are either BS2037:1994 for aluminium or BS1129 for wooden. The advice label is blue. EN131 ladders or stepladders do not currently have a set colour for the advice label though yellow is often used, as it was colour used for the former class 2, which it replaced.

Questions 8 and 16

Condition of ladders and stepladders

– typical defects found on ladders and stepladders are:

- Stiles: warped, cracked, bent, rotten, different lengths;
- Rungs: missing, bent, worn, loose, damaged rung and stile connections;
- Antislip feet (does not apply to wooden ladders or stepladders): missing at the bottom or top (only applies to ladders), excessive wear or contamination (e.g. covered in paint, embedded stones or swarf);
- Tie rods (these are metal bars underneath wooden rungs that reinforce them – depending upon the design they might be on every rung or just the top and bottom rungs); missing, bent or corroded;
- Operation and condition of push up or rope operated devices on extending ladders generally is the ladder twisted or distorted
- Makeshift repairs (e.g. nut and bolt used to replace a missing rivet)
- Operation of the ladder or stepladder e.g. does it have loose joints or connections leading to excessive sway.
- Screws: any missing
- Welds: any cracked or corroded
- Rivets: any missing
- Paint, dirt, etc on the ladder that may hide defects.

The most common type of defect will probably be missing or damaged antislip ladder feet on metal or plastic ladders. These antislip feet are extremely important as it is this rubber or plastic foot material that is intended to be intact with the ground and not the bare metal or plastic stile (that has a lower coefficient of friction).

Anecdotally the base of the ladder slipping is often mentioned in ladder accidents.

Missing antislip feet on stepladders will cause them to wobble increasing the potential for a fall or stability failure.