

Steel Pole Ladders

The NASC have been made aware of the following safety alert

Steel Pole Ladders

The HSE recently imposed a prohibition notice on a scaffold contractor (non-NASC member) about the use of a particular type of steel pole ladder following a reported fall from height.

The HSE noted that the steel pole ladder used as ladder access on the scaffold did not have any grip/tread on the rungs and as such was in breach of the provision of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 Regulation 4 (1).

Steel pole ladders are a popular form of ladder equipment for scaffolds and all scaffold contractors are urged to check that if they are using the steel version that the ladder does indeed have a ribbed or textured tread on the stiles to ensure compliance.

According to the Ladder Association the minimum standard for a 'trade purpose' ladder is EN131. Within this specification document it states the following...

"A rung is defined as "a climbing support with a standing surface from front to back of less than 80mm and at least 20mm".

It also requires that "rungs and steps made of metal or plastics shall be made with antiskid walking surface, e.g. by profiling".

For information please see attached the aforementioned prohibition notice and site photographs.

It should also be noted that the scaffolding in question was not built in accordance with SG4:10 "Preventing Falls in Scaffolding"

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Health and Safety
Executive

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Sections 22, 23 and 24

Serial Number

Prohibition Notice

Name
Address

Trading as*

I, (Inspector's full name)

one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of (Inspector's official designation)

Being an Inspector appointed by an instrument in writing made pursuant to section 19 of the said Act and entitled to issue the notice of (Official address)

Telephone number

hereby give you notice that I am of the opinion that the following activities namely:

The Provision of unsuitable ladders

which are being carried on* / likely to be carried on*
by you* / under your control* at: (Location of premises or place of activity)

ANY LOCATION

involve* / or will involve*, a risk of serious personal injury, and that the matters which give rise* / will give rise* to the said risks are:

Persons could slip or fall from these type of ladders a distance which is likely to cause serious personal injury

and that the said matters involve* / will involve* contravention of the following statutory provisions:

*Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
Regulation 4(1)*

because

The ladders are not constructed or adapted as to be suitable for the purpose for which they are provided

and I hereby direct that the said activities shall not be carried on by you or under your control immediately* / after
unless the said contraventions and matters have been remedied.

I further direct that the measures specified in the schedule which forms part of this notice shall be taken to remedy the said
contraventions or matters.*

Signature

Date *24/08/2010*

A Prohibition Notice is also being served on*

of

related to the matters contained in this notice.

This is a relevant notice for the purposes of the Environment and Safety Information Act 1988
This page only will form the register entry.*

Yes* / No*

Signature

Date *24/08/2010*

LP2 (Rev 03/01)

SEE NOTES OVERLEAF

delete as appropriate



Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, sections 21, 22, 23, and 24

Schedule

Serial No:

In order to Comply with this notice you should:

1. Remove these types of ladders from any location which they are in use & take them out of service.
2. Replace the ladders with a type which is suitable for the purpose which they are provided ie: which comply with BS EN 131.
3. Any other equally effective measures to remedy the said contravention.

LPS

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