

AS 1892.2—1992

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Portable ladders**

**Part 2: Timber**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/34, Portable Ladders. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 March 1992 and published on 20 July 1992.

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The following interests are represented on Committee SF/34:

Aluminium Development Council  
Attorney-General's Department  
Business and Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Department of Administrative Services  
Department of Industrial Affairs, Qld  
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, W.A.  
Ladder Manufacturers Association of Australia  
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia  
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Plastics Institute of Australia  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Portable Ladders, to supersede AS 1688–1974, *Portable timber ladders (including step-ladders and trestle-ladders)*.

This edition was initiated for a number of reasons including—

- (a) the need to amend design and constructional requirements in line with regulatory, manufacturing, and user practices;
- (b) the request to consider specification of performance criteria that might allow evaluation of ladders by means of compliance with performance testing criteria; and
- (c) the possibility of using alternative species of timber for ladder construction.

This edition has also updated the dimensional and constructional requirements for the traditional ladders made from Douglas fir, and rationalized the requirements for spacing of treads, rungs, and stiles.

It is not intended that these rationalized spacings be applied to ladders manufactured prior to the date of publication of this Standard.

The Standard now includes an additional method for grading of timber for use as stiles by means of a proof deflection test where visual grading alone is not considered adequate, or where mechanical stress grading equipment is not available.

The committee has reviewed the range of tests recently published in several overseas Standards (e.g. CSA, ANSI) and in AS 1892.1–1986, *Portable ladders, Part 1: Metal*; however, given the long and satisfactory service level of ‘traditional’ Douglas fir ladders manufactured in accordance with AS 1688, no justification could be seen for specifying that such ladders should now be tested and reassessed against performance tests primarily designed to assess new designs and materials. In this regard, the committee is concerned to minimize any unnecessary costs to the community and the industry.

During preparation of this Standard, reference was made to the Standards listed below. Acknowledgement is made of the assistance received from these sources.

ANSI

A14.1 (1982) Ladders—Portable, wood, safety requirements

BS

1129 (1982) Specification for portable timber ladders, steps, trestles and lightweight stagings

NZS

3609 (1978) Specification for timber ladders

SCC

CAN3–Z11–M81 Portable ladders

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