

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Portable ladders

Part 3: Reinforced plastic

AS/NZS 1892.3:1996

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF/34, Portable Ladders. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 8 February 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 19 February 1996. It was published on 5 August 1996.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/34:

Aluminium Development Council
Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Composites Institute of Australia
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Occupational Health Safety and Welfare, W.A.
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs
Ladder Manufacturers' Association of Australia
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 94180.

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Part 3: Reinforced plastic

PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY:

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
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Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
Level 10, Standards House,
155 The Terrace,
Wellington 6001 New Zealand

ISBN 0 7262 0416 6

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF/34 on Portable Ladders, as a first edition in Australia, and to supersede (in part) NZS 5233:1986, *Specification for portable ladders (other than timber ladders)*.

It is one of a series of Australian Standards covering the safe design, manufacture and use of portable ladders and accessories. Other Standards in the series are the following:

AS

1892.2 Part 2: Portable ladders—Timber

AS/NZS

1892.1 Part 1: Portable ladders—Metal

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

During the development of this Standard, reference was made to ANSI A14.5—1992 *Ladders—Portable reinforced plastic—Safety requirements*. Acknowledgment is made of the assistance received therefrom.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE	6
1.2 OBJECTIVE	6
1.3 APPLICATION	6
1.4 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS	6
1.5 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	6
1.6 DEFINITIONS	7
SECTION 2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	
2.1 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION	10
2.2 RATING	10
2.3 MATERIALS	10
2.4 ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES	12
2.5 QUALITY OF MANUFACTURE AND FINISH	13
2.6 STILES	13
2.7 TREADS AND RUNGS	13
2.8 MARKING	14
SECTION 3 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE LADDERS	
3.1 LENGTH	16
3.2 DISTANCE BETWEEN STILES	16
3.2 PERFORMANCE	16
SECTION 4 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENSION LADDERS	
4.1 LENGTH	17
4.2 EXTENSION OF STILE ABOVE TOP	17
4.3 DISTANCE BETWEEN STILES	17
4.4 OVERLAP	17
4.5 STOPS	17
4.6 FITTINGS	17
4.7 LIFTING DEVICES	18
4.8 PERFORMANCE	18
SECTION 5 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR STEPLADDERS	
5.1 LENGTH	19
5.3 DISTANCE BETWEEN STILES	19
5.3 BACK LEGS	19
5.4 SPREAD BETWEEN STILES AND BACK LEGS	19
5.5 BEARING AREA OF FEET	19
5.6 TREADS	20
5.7 SPREADER	20
5.8 TOP CAP	20
5.9 PERFORMANCE	20

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 6 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR TRESTLE LADDERS	
6.1 LENGTH	21
6.2 SPACING OF CROSS-BEARERS	21
6.3 DISTANCE BETWEEN STILES	21
6.4 SPREAD BETWEEN PAIRS OF STILES	21
6.5 SPREADER	21
6.6 HINGES	22
6.7 CHECK BLOCKS	22
6.8 PERFORMANCE	22
SECTION 7 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTIPURPOSE LADDERS	
7.1 LENGTH	23
7.2 DISTANCE BETWEEN STILES	23
7.3 ANGLE BETWEEN STILES	23
7.4 ARTICULATION	23
7.5 PERFORMANCE	23
SECTION 8 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER LADDERS	
8.1 SCOPE OF SECTION	24
8.2 REQUIREMENTS	24
SECTION 9 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS	
9.1 GENERAL	25
9.2 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE AND EXTENSION LADDERS	25
9.3 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR STEPLADDERS AND TRESTLE LADDERS	26
9.4 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTIPURPOSE LADDERS ..	27
9.5 DESIGN VERIFICATION TESTS	28
9.6 TESTS FOR LABELS	29
APPENDICES	
A TYPICAL PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES	30
B TESTS FOR LABELS	32
C EXAMPLES OF LABELS USED FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY WARNINGS	33
D STILE DEFLECTION TEST	36
E ANGULAR DEFLECTION TEST	39
F HORIZONTAL BEND STRENGTH TEST	41
G RUNG TORQUE TEST	43
H RUNG STRENGTH TEST	45
I RUNG SHEAR STRENGTH TEST	47
J SIDE SWAY TEST	49
K STILE CANTILEVER TEST	51
L FOOT FRICTION TEST	54
M DYNAMIC DROP TEST	56
N LADDER SECTION TWIST TEST	58
O LATCHING DEVICE TEST	60
P EXTENSION LADDER FITTINGS AND FOOT DISTORTION TEST	61

Page

Q	LADDER COMPRESSION AND FOOT DISTORTION TEST	63
R	STILE BENDING TEST	66
S	TREAD BENDING TEST	69
T	TREAD-TO-STILE SHEAR TEST	72
U	TREAD TORQUE TEST	74
V	STABILITY TEST	76
W	WALKING TEST	78
X	STILE AND BACK LEG CANTILEVER TEST	80
Y	STEPLADDER DYNAMIC DROP TEST	83
Z	MULTIPURPOSE WORK PLATFORM BENDING TEST	85
AA	CYCLIC HORIZONTAL BENDING TEST	86
AB	STILE SHEAR TEST	88
AC	CYCLIC STILE-BENDING TEST	90
AD	CYCLIC JOINT TEST	92
AE	UNLOCKED JOINT TEST	93
AF	SINGLE JOINT LOCK TEST	94

Originated in New Zealand as part of NZS 5233:1981.
 Previous edition 1986.
 Jointly revised and redesignated in part as AS/NZS 1892.3:1996.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard**Portable ladders****Part 3: Reinforced plastic**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out safety requirements for the design and construction of portable reinforced plastic ladders. The Standard provides for ladders of two duty ratings, industrial ladders and domestic ladders, which are assigned minimum load ratings.

The Standard covers single and multiple-section ladders, multipurpose ladders, stepladders and combination ladders.

The Standard does not cover ladder accessories, including ladder levellers, ladder stabilizers or stand-off devices, ladder jacks, or ladder straps or hooks, that may be installed on, or used in conjunction with, ladders.

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide designers, manufacturers and regulatory authorities with the minimum performance and dimensional requirements for portable reinforced plastic ladders, in order to minimize risks to the health and safety of portable ladder users.

1.3 APPLICATION The requirements listed herein specify certain minimum dimensions, strength, stability and durability criteria deemed necessary for the safe use of portable reinforced plastic ladders, thereby providing a set of performance and dimensional requirements against which portable reinforced plastic ladders may be evaluated.

1.4 PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS Portable reinforced plastic ladders shall comply with the relevant requirements of Section 2, General requirements, and with the specific requirements of the Section(s), appropriate to the type of ladder as follows:

- (a) Single ladders: Section 3.
- (b) Extension ladders: Section 4.
- (c) Stepladders: Section 5.
- (d) Trestle ladders: Section 6.
- (e) Multi-purpose ladders: Section 7.
- (f) Special purpose ladders: Section 8.

1.5 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS
2089 Sheave blocks for lifting purposes

AS/NZS
1892 Portable ladders
1892.1 Part 1: Metal

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AS/NZS

4142 Fibre ropes

4142.2 Part 2: Three-strand, hawser-laid and eight-strand plaited

ASTM

D 149 Test methods for dielectric breakdown voltage and dielectric strength of solid electrical insulating materials at commercial power frequencies

D 229 Standard test methods for rigid sheet and plate materials used for electrical insulation

D 709 Specification for laminated thermosetting materials

D 790 Test methods for flexural properties of unreinforced and reinforced plastics and electrical insulating materials

D 792 Test methods for density and specific gravity (relative density) of plastics by displacement

D 903 Test method for peel or stripping strength of adhesive bonds

D 1499 Practice for operating light- and water-exposure apparatus (carbon-arc type) for exposure of plastics

D 2565 Practice for operating xenon arc-type light-exposure apparatus with and without water for exposure of plastics

D 2583 Test method for indentation hardness of rigid plastics by means of a Barcol impressor

G 23 Practice for operating light-exposure apparatus (carbon-arc type) with and without water for exposure of nonmetallic materials

G 26 Practice for operating light-exposure apparatus (xenon-arc type) with and without water for exposure of nonmetallic materials

G 53 Practice for operating light- and water-exposure apparatus (fluorescent UV-condensation type) for exposure of nonmetallic materials

1.6 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

1.6.1 Articulation—a hinge which is capable of being locked in one or more positions.

1.6.2 Composite—a homogeneous material created by the synthetic assembly of two or more materials (a selected filler or reinforcing elements and a compatible matrix binder), to obtain specific characteristics and properties.

1.6.3 Domestic ladder—a ladder designed to be used by a householder for construction, maintenance and repairs carried out at a private dwelling for non-commercial purposes.

1.6.4 Double-sided stepladder—a self-supporting portable ladder of fixed length with two pairs of stiles which are—

- (a) hinged or fixed; and
- (b) each fitted with treads for ascent and descent.

1.6.5 Dual-purpose stepladder—a self-supporting stepladder where the back section is fitted with rungs or treads, and which can be further adjusted to provide an extension of the front section as a non-self-supporting portable ladder (in the extended position).

1.6.6 Duty rating—the rating assigned to the ladder, i.e. industrial or domestic, which indicates the service capability of the ladder.

1.6.7 Effective length—the working length of a ladder less end caps and feet, where fitted.