



Physics Division ESH Bulletin 02-3

Ladder Safety

SBMS Subject Area: Ladders

- User required to inspect ladders prior to use, inspection tag is not required
- Fixed ladders inspected by Quality every 5 years, acceptance sticker and date (or reject tag)
- Training is required if using a ladder in construction work
- Ladders used in construction must be inspected by a competent person on a periodic basis

Physics Division Implementation

- A small number of ladders will be inspected and tagged by the carpenters for use in construction
- All service subcontractors will be required to use ladders with current inspection tags OR provide their own ladders

The user inspects ladders for the following types of deficiencies:

Step Ladders

- Oil, grease, or excess dirt
- Noticeably loose steps, rungs, and hardware or ladder instability
- Corroded metal parts or sharp edges
- Missing or damaged truss block supports, reinforcing rods, or knee braces
- Damaged or defective safety or non-skid feet, where provided
- Major delaminations, blisters, or visible cracks and splits in rungs or side rails
- Damaged or non-functioning spreader or locking device

Extension Ladders

- Oil, grease, or excess dirt
- Noticeably loose steps, rungs, and hardware or ladder instability
- Corroded metal parts or sharp edges
- Major delaminations, blisters, or visible cracks and splits in rungs or side rails
- Damaged or defective pulleys, rung locks, or rope
- Damaged or defective safety feet

Ladder Stands

- Oil, grease, or excess dirt
- Noticeable loose steps, rungs, and hardware or ladder instability
- Corroded metal parts or sharp edges
- Cracks in welds
- Casters in poor condition or missing
- Damaged or missing safety feet

Fixed Ladders

- No Quality acceptance sticker or ID# attached
- Reject tag and "Do Not Use" sign is attached
- Oil, grease, or excess dirt
- Damaged/defective steps, rungs, side rails, or cage structure
- Corroded metal parts or sharp edges
- Insecure anchorage to the structure, ladder instability
- Loose grounding connection, if provided