AS 1892.2—1992
Reconfirmed 2022

Australian Standard®

Portable ladders

Part 2: Timber

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.

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

National Safety Council of Australia

Plastics Institute of Australia

Railways of Australia Committee

Telecom Australia

University of New South Wales

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

RECONFIRMATION

OF
AS 1892.2—1992
Portable ladders
Part 2: Timber

RECONFIRMATION NOTICE

Technical Committee SF-034 has reviewed the content of this publication and in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation, it has been determined that the publication is still valid and does not require change.

Certain documents referenced in the publication may have been amended since the original date of publication. Users are advised to ensure that they are using the latest versions of such documents as appropriate, unless advised otherwise in this Reconfirmation Notice.

Approved for reconfirmation in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation on 12 July 2022.

The following are represented on Technical Committee SF-034:

Australian Aluminium Council Ltd.
Australian Industry Group
Australian Institute of Health & Safety
Better Regulation Division (Fair Trading, SafeWork NSW, TestSafe)
Consumers Federation of Australia
Energy Networks Australia
Engineers Australia
Master Builders Australia
Working at Height Association

NOTES

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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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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out the minimum constructional and safety requirements for the design and manufacture of portable ladders with timber stiles.

The Standard provides for ladders of two duty ratings, viz 'industrial ladders' and 'domestic ladders', which are assigned minimum load ratings.

The Standard does not cover ladder accessories such as 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 APPLICATION Portable timber ladders with stiles manufactured from Douglas fir shall comply with the relevant requirements of Section 2 (general requirements), and with the specific requirements of the Section appropriate to the type of ladder, as follows:

(a) Single ladders: Section 3.

(b) Extension ladders: Section 4.

(c) Stepladders: Section 5.

(d) Platform stepladders: Section 6.

(e) Trestle ladders: Section 7.

(f) Domestic extension/stepladders: Section 8.

Portable timber ladders with stiles manufactured from timber other than Douglas fir shall comply with the relevant requirements of Section 2 (general requirements) and with the specific requirements of Section 9.

NOTE: Ladders used in industrial applications are required, in some States, to be approved by the relevant regulatory authority.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS
1080 Methods of testing timber
1080.1 Part 1: Moisture content
1080.2.1 Method 2.1: Determination of slope of grain by scribe
1148 Nomenclature of commercial timbers imported into Australia
1394 Round steel wire for ropes
1504 Fibre rope—Three-strand, hawser laid
1604 Preservative treatment for sawn timber, veneer and plywood
1728 Types of timber surfaces
1748 Mechanically stress-graded timber
2089 Sheave blocks (including ships' cargo blocks) of maximum lift 60 t
2543 Nomenclature of Australian timbers

1.4 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply (see also Figure 1.1).

1.4.1 Portable timber ladder—a readily movable appliance consisting of timber stiles (see Clause 1.4.13) joined at regular intervals by crosspieces called rungs or treads (see Clause 1.4.14), on which a person may stand or step in ascending or descending.

1.4.2 Domestic ladder—a ladder designed to be used by a householder for construction, maintenance, and repairs carried out by the householder at the householder's dwelling.

1.4.3 Industrial ladder—any ladder other than a domestic ladder.

1.4.4 Single ladder—a non-self-supporting portable ladder consisting of one section.

1.4.5 Extension ladder—a non-self-supporting portable ladder consisting of two or more sections travelling in guides or brackets arranged in order to permit adjustment of working length.