



## **Portable ladders**

### **Part 5: Selection, safe use and care**



AS 1892.5:2020

This Australian Standard® was prepared by SF-034, Portable Ladders. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 June 2020.

This Standard was published on 26 June 2020.

The following are represented on Committee SF-034:

- Australian Aluminium Council
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Health & Safety
- Better Regulation Division
- Consumers Federation of Australia
- Engineers Australia
- Ladder Manufacturers Association of Australia
- Master Builders Australia
- National Retail Association Australia
- Working at Height Association

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 1892.5:2020.

### **Keeping Standards up-to-date**

Ensure you have the latest versions of our publications and keep up-to-date about Amendments, Rulings, Withdrawals, and new projects by visiting:

[www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au)

ISBN 978 1 76072 890 8



## **Portable ladders**

### **Part 5: Selection, safe use and care**

Originated as AS CA29—1959.  
Previous edition AS/NZS 1892.5:2000.  
Revised and redesignated as AS 1892.5:2020.

#### **COPYRIGHT**

© Standards Australia Limited 2020

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher, unless otherwise permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth).

## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-034, Portable Ladders, to supersede AS/NZS 1892.5:2000.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide minimum requirements and recommended safe practices for the selection, use and maintenance of portable ladders in order to minimize the risks for those who use, work with or are near portable ladders.

This Standard is Part 5 in a series of Standards covering the safe design, manufacture and use of portable ladders. Other Standards in the series are as follows:

AS 1892.1, *Portable ladders, Part 1: Performance and geometric requirements*

AS 1892.2, *Portable ladders, Part 2: Timber*

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) Significant update of general recommendations common to portable ladders, see [Section 2](#).
- (b) Addition of recommendations for trestle ladders, see [Clause 2.12](#).
- (c) Addition of recommendations for fall arrest equipment, see [Clause 2.14](#).
- (d) Addition of safety information, see [Clause 2.15](#).

# Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Section 1 Scope and general</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope .....	1
1.2 Application .....	1
1.3 Normative references .....	1
1.4 Terms and definitions .....	1
<b>Section 2 Common guidelines</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 Principles .....	3
2.2 Handling of ladders .....	5
2.2.1 Care in handling and setup .....	5
2.2.2 Care during transport .....	5
2.3 Pitch angle .....	6
2.4 Footing .....	6
2.5 Top of ladder .....	6
2.6 Using a ladder to gain access .....	7
2.7 Climbing ladders .....	7
2.8 Ladders used near door openings .....	7
2.9 Working on ladders .....	7
2.10 Movement on ladders .....	8
2.10.1 Number of persons on a ladder .....	8
2.10.2 Number of ladders .....	8
2.11 Step ladders .....	9
2.12 Trestle ladders .....	9
2.13 Use of ladders to support working platforms .....	9
2.13.1 Self-supporting ladders .....	9
2.13.2 Non self-supporting ladders .....	9
2.13.3 Improper use .....	9
2.14 Use of fall arrest .....	9
2.15 Safety information .....	10
<b>Section 3 Metal ladders</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1 Electrical hazards .....	11
3.2 Maintenance .....	11
3.3 Inspection .....	11
3.4 Tipping over, and other impact damage .....	11
3.5 Exposure to fire .....	11
3.6 Corrosive substances .....	12
3.7 Storage .....	12
<b>Section 4 Non-metallic ladders</b> .....	<b>13</b>
4.1 Maintenance .....	13
4.2 Inspection .....	13
4.3 Tipping over, and other impact damage .....	13
4.4 Exposure to fire .....	13
4.5 Corrosive substances .....	14
4.6 Storage .....	14
<b>Section 5 Timber ladders</b> .....	<b>15</b>
5.1 Electrical hazards .....	15
5.2 Hot conditions .....	15
5.3 Maintenance .....	15
5.4 Coating of stiles .....	15
5.5 Inspection .....	15
5.6 Tipping over, and other impact damage .....	15
5.7 Corrosive substances .....	16
5.8 Storage .....	16

**Bibliography** ..... **17**

# Australian Standard®

## Portable ladders

### Part 5: Selection, safe use and care

#### Section 1 Scope and general

##### 1.1 Scope

This Standard sets out the minimum requirements and recommended safe practices for the selection, use and maintenance of portable ladders.

The requirements of this Standard need not apply where safe work procedures that are equivalent or superior to this Standard are in place.

##### 1.2 Application

General recommendations common to the selection, use and maintenance of portable ladders are given in [Section 2](#), while specific recommendations and requirements for ladders predominantly constructed from a particular material are given in the following Sections:

- (a) Metal ladders, see [Section 3](#).
- (b) Non-metal ladders, see [Section 4](#).
- (c) Timber ladders, see [Section 5](#).

[Section 2](#) shall be read in conjunction with the relevant Section relating to the type of ladder being used.

##### 1.3 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

##### 1.4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

###### 1.4.1

###### **competent person**

person who has acquired through training, qualifications or experience, or a combination of these, the knowledge and skills enabling that person to perform a specified task

###### 1.4.2

###### **may**

indicates the existence of an option

###### 1.4.3

###### **shall**

indicates that a statement is mandatory

###### 1.4.4

###### **should**

indicates a recommendation