



Program	Ladder Safety		
Guide	Frequently Asked Questions on Ladders		
Revision Date	8/13/2024	Revision Number	1
Can a step ladder be used in a folded manner?	No. Step ladders are designed to be opened in an A-frame manner, with the spreader or braces locked. Also, the feet of step ladders typically do not make good contact with the floor when not fully extended and set up as intended.		
Do portable ladders have to be ANSI-approved?	Yes and no. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations do not require American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval. However, ladders manufactured in compliance with ANSI A14 are considered to comply with OSHA regulations. If a ladder is ANSI-approved, it complies with OSHA design requirements.		
What about safety requirements for employee-owned equipment and tools?	<p>Regardless of who owns the equipment or tools an employee uses while on the job, they must be in good condition and proper working order. Good condition also includes any required safety features of the equipment/tool.</p> <p>Divisions, departments, and programs shall not permit employee-owned equipment/tools to be used on the job. Injuries caused by defective, improper, or substandard equipment are still work-related. Reducing hazardous conditions in the workplace is our goal and everyone's obligation.</p>		
What are the different "types" or duty ratings of ladders?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type IAA ladders are special duty rated, with a working load of 375 lbs. maximum.</li> <li>• Type IA ladders are industrial-rated, with a working load of 300 lbs. maximum.</li> <li>• Type I ladders are also industrial-rated but with a working load of 250 lbs. maximum.</li> <li>• Type II ladders are commercially rated, with a maximum working load of 225 lbs. They are considered to be rated for "medium duty." (They are not acceptable for work use.)</li> <li>• Type III ladders are household-rated, with a maximum working load of 200 lbs. They are considered to be rated for "light-duty." (They are not acceptable for work use.)</li> </ul>		
Why can't I stand on the top of a step ladder?	When a step ladder's top or top rung is used, it becomes top-heavy and very unstable. If additional height is needed to access the work, a taller ladder should be used.		