

MEDIA RELEASE



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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD: FIXED PLATFORMS, WALKWAYS, STAIRWAYS AND LADDERS - DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION

Standards Australia has released a new version of AS 1657 - 2013 *Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders— design, construction and installation*

“The publication of this new edition is a result of working with all stakeholders including government and industry,” said Dr Bronwyn Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia.’

“Input from the construction sector and work health and safety experts has produced this excellent outcome,” Dr Evans added.

The new standard will serve to reduce ambiguity and give guidelines for manufacturers, and provide greater safety of the users involved in accessing of fixed ladders, platforms and walkways.

Dr Evans said certifiers will have an up-to-date set of requirements which consistently addresses the current accepted industry practices and will make it much easier to monitor and increase industry conformance.

“This standard is all about ensuring that building sites provide the optimal level of safety,” said Dr Evans.

The standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee SF-013, Platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders. The following organisations are represented on the committee:

- Australian Aluminium Council
- Australian Building Codes Board
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Rope Access Association
- CSIRO
- Department of Justice (Tasmania)
- Energy Networks Association
- Engineers Australia
- Ladder Manufacturers Association of Australia
- Master Builders Australia
- Property Council of Australia
- WorkCover New South Wales
- WorkSafe Victoria

Dr Evans said the standard continues to provide guidance and requirements from the design stage through to installation for platforms, walkways, stairs and ladders.

ENDS.

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