**Guidance for Importing Ladders**

**Labelling – Ladders must be marked with the following:**

* The identity and address of the producer and/or distributor in GB including website address for information about the ladder **\***
* The type of ladder and possible modes of use (description of the type, number and length of the parts, maximum length of ladder in use, maximum standing height measured in position of use according to the recommendation of the manufacturer)**\***
* The classification of use “professional” or “non-professional” **\***
* Number of the general standard EN 131 or if a dedicated standard exists (e.g. a telescopic ladder according to *BS EN 131-6:2019,* or a multi hinge ladder according to *BS EN 131-4:2020*), the number of that standard
* Month and year of production and/or serial number (may also be stamped)
* Weight of the ladder (in kg) and maximal total load (in kg) **\***
* Note - Ladders being imported into GB must **NOT** be marked with either the CE or the UKCA mark as there no UK regulations under which these marks can be applied

**\***This information must also appear on the packaging of the ladder, or be clearly visible to the consumer before purchase

Additionally, the product or the packaging must be marked with:

* The name and address of the producer and
* The product reference and batch number

**Warnings and Instructions**

All ladders must be marked with basic safety markings.

There are additional safety markings for different types of ladders including:

* Standing ladders
* Leaning ladders
* Combination ladders
* Extending ladders
* Single or multi-hinge joint ladders
* Telescopic ladders
* Mobile ladders with platform

Ladders must also be supplied with a set of clear instructions in English, which identifies how to maintain and use the product safely. Safety instructions must also include the repair, maintenance and storage of ladders.

The basic safety markings, along with additional requirements for product type specific marking requirements and user instructions can be found in *BS EN 131-3:2018 – Ladders. Marking and user instructions.*

For all ladders, the marking to indicate the topmost rung/step that shall be used for standing on, shall be placed:

— on the stile of the ladder adjacent to or on the last /allowed; or

— on the first /not allowed rung/step; or

— on the label for safety marking.

The following basic safety markings shall be fixed permanently to all ladders, including ladder parts which can be used separately, as an easily viewed symbol:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Marking** | **Symbol** |
| Warning, fall from the ladder.  This warning sign shall appear on each marking on the ladder at the first place. | A yellow triangle sign with a person falling  Description automatically generated |
| Refer to instruction manual/booklet |  |
| Inspect the ladder after delivery.  Before every use visually check the ladder is not damaged and is safe to use.  Do not use a damaged ladder. |  |
| Maximum total load |  |
| Do not use the ladder on a unlevel or unfirm base. |  |
| Do not overreach. |  |
| Maximum number of users. |  |
| If a ladder is delivered with stabiliser bars and these bars should be fixed by the user before the first use this shall be described on the ladder and in the user instruction. |  |
| Ladder for domestic use |  |

**Compliance Documentation**

As an importer of ladders, you have a legal duty as the Producer under the *General Product Safety Regulations 2005*, to ensure that the ladders you supply or place on the GB market are safe. This can be done by making sure the manufacturer has taken measures to ensure their ladders are safe. They should draw up a technical file which includes documents such as risk assessments and test reports.

You should request and thoroughly check these documents from the manufacturer before you purchase the goods, so that you can provide them on request to Market Surveillance Authorities.

* The producer/manufacturer can demonstrate their products are safe by ensuring their products have been assessed against a voluntary national designated standard. This can include submitting the ladder to a third-party test house. Test reports should include detail of all relevant tests (included in *BS EN 131-2:2010 +A2:2017),* and the standards applied to ensure the ladder is safe.
* In GB the relevant standards are:
* *BS EN 131-1:2015 +A1:2019 – Ladders. Terms, types, functional sizes*
* *BS EN 131-2:2010 +A2:2017 – Ladders. Part 2: Requirements, testing, marking*
* *BS EN 131-3:2018 – Ladders. Marking and user instructions*
* *BS EN 131-4:2020 – Ladders. Single or multiple hinge-joint ladders*
* *BS EN 131-6:2019 – Ladders. Telescopic ladders*
* *BS EN 131-7:2013 – Ladders. Mobile ladders with platform*

**When you import goods into the UK, they may be subject to product safety checks at the border. In this instance you will be requested to provide the documents detailed below:**

* A copy of a relevant test report to demonstrate how the product was tested and the results of those tests
* Authorities may also request copies of a detailed packing list which should show the quantity of each item including number of pieces and cartons. Also, any marks or numbers which will enable each carton to be identified and located
* This information must be supplied in English

**When sourcing your products, you should:**

* Buy from a reputable supplier and always obtain an invoice
* Make sure the product/packaging is marked with the name and address of the manufacturer
* Ask to see proof that the product is safe (a test certificate and report)

**The UK government provides further guidance on** [**Placing manufactured products on the market in Great Britain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/placing-manufactured-goods-on-the-market-in-great-britain)