



**Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways  
and ladders—Design, construction and  
installation**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee SF-013, Platforms, Gangways, Stairways and Ladders. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 October 2013.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-013:

- 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
- 

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 1657.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways  
and ladders—Design, construction and  
installation**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee SF-013, Platforms, Gangways, Stairways and Ladders, to supersede AS 1657—1992.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (June 2016). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

The Committee considered a number of International Standards on the subject of platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders for gaining access to machinery. While some of the material from these Standards has been included, the Committee thought it inappropriate to adopt them as Australian Standards.

Other matters considered by the Committee included the need to improve compatibility with the National Construction Code (NCC), which provides a uniform set of technical provisions for the design and construction of buildings throughout Australia.

Changes in this edition include the following:

- (a) The inclusion of single stile ladders, as they are used in other parts of the world.
- (b) Access to roofs (for the installation or maintenance of equipment, e.g. air-conditioning plants) has been addressed in this edition.
- (c) References to the regulatory authority have been removed.
- (d) All requirements pertaining to a particular form of access (e.g. stairways, ladders) are grouped together.
- (e) A broader scope of testing of products and more complete test methods have been included.
- (f) The issue of slip resistance of walking surfaces has been highlighted, and informative references to relevant Australian Standards and handbooks included.
- (g) Testing of a wider range of products has been introduced for use when verification by engineering analysis is not possible, practicable or when the products are proprietary products and proof of performance is required.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

*This Standard incorporates a Commentary on some of the clauses. The Commentary directly follows the relevant clause, is designated by ‘C’ preceding the clause number and is printed in italics in a panel. The Commentary is intended to help readers understand the background to the clause but does not form part of the clause.*

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

### Australian Standard

## Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders—Design, construction and installation

### SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

#### 1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out requirements for the design, selection, construction and installation of fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders that are intended to provide safe access to places used by operating, inspection, maintenance and servicing personnel.

This Standard also applies to the following:

- (a) Movable platforms that are permanently configured but that may be site adjustable or site assembled/modified.
- (b) Permanently installed roof access, where such access is for the purpose of installing, operating, inspecting, maintaining or servicing equipment that is located on, or is accessible from, the roof.
- (c) Permanently installed access for inspection and maintenance of the roof itself.

NOTE: This Standard may also be used for guidance in providing access to some parts of mobile plant, light and telecommunication towers, wind turbine towers and water and sewerage facilities. While such access may not be capable of complying with all the requirements of this Standard, the principles and imposed actions should be followed.

#### 1.2 EXCLUSIONS

This Standard does not apply to the following:

- (a) Scaffolding that may be used in similar situations.
- (b) Access for people with disabilities.
- (c) Temporary access, such as by means of portable ladders.
- (d) Access and egress to buildings covered by the National Construction Code (NCC).
- (e) Attic type ladders (see Note 1).
- (f) Access to lift machine rooms (see Note 2).

#### NOTES

- 1 While some attic type ladders in the market are able to comply with this Standard, it is not the intention of this Standard to provide specifications for such ladders.
- 2 For access to lift machine rooms, see NCC, BCA Volume One.
- 3 There may be additional or conflicting requirements in legislation. Users should make themselves aware of these requirements.

#### 1.3 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide technical specifications and criteria for fixed platforms, walkways, guardrails, stairways, ladders and permanently configured (but movable) platforms that are used in the workplace, to reduce the risks to the safety of users.