

**LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

12/22/05
INDEXED BY EDITION
MAKING AD...
✓

SUBJECT: Meeting on Ladder Safety and Ladder Standards

DATE OF MEETING: November 17, 2005

PLACE OF MEETING: American Ladder Institute Headquarters, Chicago, IL

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Thomas E. Caton, ESME, November 22, 2005

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Thomas E. Caton, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: ANSI-ASC A14 Committee Members

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

1. The meeting opened with a discussion of the approaching deadlines for ladder standards ANSI A14.1 for Wood Ladders, ANSI A14.2 for Portable Metal Ladders, ANSI A14.5 Portable Plastic Reinforced Ladders, and ANSI A14.10 Portable Special Duty Ladders. They are not ready to finalize these standards and therefore they will extend the finalizing date for a year. They are striving for uniformity among the standards. The Metal Ladder standard needs more work on the articulated ladder tests. It is also planned to incorporate the requirements for Special Duty Ladders (375 lbs.) into ANSI A14.2 and ANSI A14.5 and discontinue ANSI A14.10 when ANSI A14.2 and ANSI A14.5 are approved. ANSI A14.7 for Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms is finished for public review and it will be published when ANSI signs off its approval. ANSI A14.8 for Portable Ladder Accessories is in draft and has been passed out for review to the committee chair. A draft for ANSI A14.11 for Utility Step Stools has been distributed to the A14 Chair. It will not be ready until the first quarter of 2006. There is a quandary of a 3 foot stepladders and 3 foot step stools. A step stool is for standing on and a stepladder is to be stood no higher than the step below to top. The step stool top is a certain size that differs from a stepladder.

2. The Technical Co-Secretariat position has been empty for a year. It was discussed whether the co-position should be dissolved, suspend, abolished or continued. The committee questioned if ANSI's rules allow for such a change with the co-secretariat position or should such a change be presented to ANSI for approval. Furthermore, if the co-secretariat position was abolished how difficult would it be to re-establish the position.

3. The committee discussed how ladder standards are used by US OSHA and other governing bodies. The committee stated that OSHA standards refer to ANSI standards that date to 1956 while the current version is dated to 2000. There are differences between the 1956 and 2000 ladder standards with some 1956 requirements being obsolete



but required by OSHA. The committee discussed how the OSHA requirements could be updated to current standards.

4. The committee was informed the Nicholas Marchica had retired as of September 2005. The committee was informed that an alternative CPSC representative has not been named leaving only Thomas Caton representing US CPSC on the committee.

5. The sales statistics of the various ANSI ladder-related standards was discussed. It was not that ANSI A14.3 for Fixed Ladders has seen an “up-spike” in sales. They attribute this to building code requirements. ANSI A14.9 Ceiling Mounted Disappearing Climbing Systems has had 21 copies sold. The committee discussed how building associations could be made aware that this standard exists. One committee member said that slow sales might be due to the standard being incorporated into the codes section of each state.

6. The committee discussed a contact agreement signed with Canada for the adoption of ANSI ladder standards by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The committee has not recently heard from CSA. CSA has its own subcommittee looking into what ANSI requirements to adopt.

- CSA will have to translate the English standards into French.
- The CSA requirements for wood ladders are more a load test than a sizing standard. The CSA looks at ANSI A14.1 Wood Ladders as a requirement reduction compared to the CSA Wood Ladder Standard.

7. ANSI is conducting its five year revolving audit of ANSI-ASC A14 committee work. This remote audit is looking at;

- internet use, response to comments resulting from ballots,
- the web site will allow members to access documents for review,
- the paper trail of a voting history,
- ANSI is requiring the official name of the committee to be “ANSI-ASC A14” exactly to provide a separation between ANSI and the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC),
- Ballots received after the deadline should not be counted,
- ANSI-ASC A14 meeting are open to anyone,
- The committee needs better balance among the member categories,
- The committee roster is to list your name, company, and the category (User, Fabrication/Related, General Interest, Advisory/Liaison),
- A member of the American Ladder Institute can also be a voting member of ANSI-ASC A14.

8. The Volunteer Protection Act was discussed about how it affects committee membership.

9. The committee will try to provide CPSC with a finite element analysis of a ladder showing the virtue of the non linear test loading for a cantilever test. They said that the

test requirement for a Type IA ladders is bulkier than that for a Type III ladder for improved handling resistance.

10. Jon Ver Halen was appointed as the new chairman of the Labeling Task Force. The task force will be investigating:

- what labels are most likely to be read,
- labeling research as to the basis behind changes in a label,
- is a new label better than an old label,
- what about litigation should information be removed from a new label compared to the old label,
- bi-lingual labels,
- allocation of space for a bi-lingual label,
- can CPSC help of some other labeling expert?

11. There has been no new information concerning the NIOSH Harvard Ladder Safety Project.

12. Next meeting planned for late April 2006 (Wednesday April 26).