

# Extension Ladders – Know The Laws of Your Province



Extension ladder safety regulations are vital for ensuring the safe performance of elevated tasks in workplaces. These regulations require **employers** to ensure that ladders are properly designed, maintained, and used according to manufacturer specifications and CSA standards. Safety measures include securing ladders against movement, maintaining proper overlap between sections, ensuring firm and level footing, and prohibiting unsafe practices such as overreaching or working from the top rungs. Workers **must** be trained in proper ladder use, positioning, and inspection procedures. While general safety principles are consistent across Canada, specific requirements vary by province and territory to address local hazards and worksite conditions. Compliance with these regulations reduces the risk of falls

## FEDERAL

Under the [Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) **Part III, Section 3.11**, **employers** are responsible for ensuring that extension and other portable ladders used in the workplace meet CSA Standard CAN3-Z11-M81 and are used safely. This includes placing ladders on firm footing, securing them to prevent dislodgement, maintaining proper slope when fastening isn't possible, ensuring ladders extend three rungs above elevated surfaces for access, and prohibiting work from the top rungs or steps. **Employers must** also prevent the use of

metal or wire-bound ladders near live electrical circuits.

## **PART III – Temporary Structures and Excavations**

### **Portable Ladders**

(1) Commercially manufactured portable ladders **shall** meet the standards set out in CSA Standard CAN3-Z11-M81, *Portable Ladders*, the English version of which is dated September, 1981, as amended to March, 1983 and the French version of which is dated August, 1982, as amended to June, 1983.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), every portable ladder **shall**, while being used,

(a) be placed on a firm footing; and

(b) be secured in such a manner that it cannot be dislodged accidentally from its position.

(3) Where, because of the nature of the location or of the work being done, a portable ladder cannot be securely fastened in place, it **shall**, while being used, be sloped so that the base of the ladder is not less than one-quarter and not more than one-third of the length of the ladder from a point directly below the top of the ladder and at the same level as the base.

(4) Every portable ladder that provides access from one level to another **shall** extend at least three rungs above the higher level.

(5) Metal or wire-bound portable ladders **shall** not be used if there is a risk that they could come into contact with any live electrical circuit or equipment.

(6) No employee **shall** work from any of the three top rungs of any single or extension portable ladder or from either of the two top steps of any portable step ladder. **Section 3.11 (1) to (6).**

Further details on the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [Justice.gc.ca](https://www.justice.gc.ca).

## **ALBERTA**

In Alberta, **employers** are **required** to ensure ladder safety under the [Occupational Health and Safety Code Part 8, Sections 124, 125, 128, 132, 133, and 136](#). **Employers must** prohibit the use of ladders as access points if safer alternatives exist, ensure ladders are not improvised with single rails, and prevent workers from climbing ladder-equipped booms unless outriggers are deployed. Portable ladders **must** be placed securely, positioned at a safe angle, and extend at least 1 metre above access points. Workers **must** avoid the top two rungs unless specified by the manufacturer.

### **Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways, and Ladders**

#### **Ladders – General**

##### **Restriction on Use**

An **employer must** ensure that workers do not use a ladder to enter or leave an elevated or sub-level work area if the area has another safe and recognizable way to enter or leave it. **Section 124.**

##### **Prohibition on Single Rail**

A person **must** not make a ladder by fastening cleats across a single rail or post. **Section 125.**

##### **Ladders on Extending Booms**

**(1)** An **employer must** ensure that:

(a) if a ladder is a permanent part of an extending boom on powered mobile equipment, no worker is on the ladder during the articulation, extension, or retraction of the boom, and

(b) if outriggers are incorporated in the equipment to provide stability, no worker climbs the ladder until the outriggers are deployed.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to professional firefighters working on firefighting equipment. **Section 128 (1)(2).**

### **Rest Platform Exemption**

If each worker working on a drilling rig or service rig on a fixed ladder is equipped with and wears a climb assist device that complies with the manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, an **employer** is not **required** to:

(a) provide the ladder with rest platforms, or

(b) have the side rails extend not less than 1050 millimetres above the point at which the workers get on or off. **Section 132.**

### **Portable Ladders**

#### **Prohibition**

(1) A worker **must** not perform work from either of the top 2 rungs, steps or cleats of a portable ladder unless the manufacturer's specifications allow the worker to do so.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a worker may work from either of the top 2 rungs, steps or treads of a stepladder,

(a) if the stepladder has a railed platform at the top, or

(b) if the manufacturer's specifications for the stepladder permit it. **Section 133 (1)(2).**

### **Securing and Positioning**

A worker **must** ensure that

- (a) a portable ladder is secured against movement and placed on a base that is stable,
  - (b) the base of an inclined portable ladder is no further from the base of the wall or structure than 1/4 of the distance between the base of the ladder and the place where the ladder contacts the wall, and
  - (c) the side rails of a portable ladder extend at least 1 metre above a platform, landing or parapet if the ladder is used as a means of access to the platform, landing or parapet.
- Section 136.**

Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Code can be found at [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca).

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

In British Columbia, **employers** are **required** to address extension ladder safety under the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) **Part 13, Sections 13.4, 13.5, and 13.6.** **Employers must** ensure that manufactured portable ladders are properly marked, placed on firm and level surfaces, and positioned at a safe 75° angle. Ladders used for access **must** extend approximately 1 metre above the upper landing and be securely fastened to prevent movement. **Employers** are also responsible for ensuring workers do not carry heavy or bulky objects while on ladders and that alternative work platforms are provided when ladder use poses a hazard.

### **Part 13: Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms**

#### **Division 2 – Ladders**

##### **Manufactured ladders**

A manufactured portable ladder **must** be marked for the grade of material used to construct the ladder and the use for which the ladder is constructed. **Section 13.4.**

## **Position and Stability**

(1) A portable ladder **must**:

(a) be placed on a firm and level surface, and

(b) be of sufficient length to enable the safe performance of the work activity while being used.

(2) A portable non-self-supporting ladder **must**:

(a) as shown in Figure 13-1, be positioned so that the ladder is leaning against the vertical plane of support at an approximate angle of 75° when measured from the horizontal plane of support,

(b) if the ladder provides access to or egress from an upper landing,

(i) project approximately 1 m (3 ft) above the upper landing, and

(ii) be sufficiently secured in place to ensure the stability of the ladder during access to or egress from the upper landing, and

(c) if the ladder is not already secured in accordance with paragraph (b)(ii), be sufficiently secured in place to ensure the stability of the ladder during use if conditions exist that are likely to cause the ladder to be unstable. **Section 13.5 (1)(2).**

## **Use restrictions**

(1) If work cannot be done from a ladder without hazard to a worker, a work platform **must** be provided.

(2) A worker **must** not carry up or down a ladder, heavy or bulky objects or any other objects which may make ascent or descent unsafe. **Section 13.6 (1)(2).**

Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation can be found at [worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com).

## **MANITOBA**

In Manitoba, **employers** are **required** to ensure the safe use of extension ladders under the [Workplace Safety and Health Regulation](#) Part 13, Sections 13.7, 13.8, 13.14, 13.16, 13.18, and 13.19. **Employers must** provide ladders that are properly maintained, inspected before each use, and capable of supporting expected loads. Extension ladders **must** have secure locks, comply with maximum length limits, and maintain proper section overlap based on ladder height. Portable ladders **must** be placed on stable surfaces, secured against movement, and extend at least one metre above landings.

### **PART 13 – ENTRANCES, EXITS, STAIRWAYS, AND LADDERS**

#### **LADDERS – GENERAL**

##### **Loads**

Every ladder provided by an **employer** for use at a workplace **must** be designed and constructed and maintained to safely support any load that will be or is likely to be imposed on it. **Section 13.7.**

##### **Worker to Inspect Ladder**

An **employer must** ensure that a worker inspects a ladder for defects prior to each use. A ladder found to be broken or defective may not be used until it has been repaired and restored to its original design specifications. **Section 13.8.**

##### **Extension Ladders**

**(1)** An **employer must** ensure that an extension ladder used by a worker:

(a) is equipped with locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in the extended position; and

(b) does not exceed

(i) 14.6 m in length, if it consists of two sections, or

(ii) 20 m in length, if it consists of more than two sections.

**(2)** An **employer must** ensure that, if a section of an extension ladder is extended, the extended section overlaps another section for at least

(a) one metre, for a ladder less than 11 m in length,

(b) 1.25 m, for a ladder between 11 m and 15 m in length, or

(c) 1.5 m, for a ladder over 15 m in length. **Section 13.14 (1)(2).**

## **Portable Ladders**

**(1)** When in use at a workplace, an **employer must** ensure that a portable ladder is secured against movement at all times during use and is placed on a stable, level base.

**(2)** Without limiting subsection (1), an **employer must** ensure that:

(a) where a portable ladder is used as a means of access to a platform, roof, or other landing, it extends at least one metre above the platform, roof or other landing, and

(b) for a portable ladder other than a stepladder, it is placed against a structure so that the slope of the ladder is no more than 1:4. **Section 13.16 (1)(2).**

## **Workers Using Portable Ladder**

An **employer must** ensure that a worker using

(a) a stepladder or other commercially manufactured portable



ladder does so in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and safe operating instructions; and

(b) a portable ladder other than a stepladder

(i) does not extend any part of his or her body, except his or her arms, beyond the side rails of the ladder, and

(ii) maintains a three-point contact on the ladder at all times. **Section 13.18.**

### **Prohibitions re: Use of Portable Ladder**

An **employer must** ensure that a worker does not perform work from either of the top two rungs, steps, or cleats of

(a) a portable ladder other than a stepladder unless the manufacturer's specifications for the ladder permit it, or

(b) a stepladder, unless

(i) it has a railed platform at the top, or

(ii) the manufacturer's specifications for the stepladder permit it. **Section 13.19.**

**Further details on the Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation can be found at [gov.mb.ca](http://gov.mb.ca).**

## **NEW BRUNSWICK**

In New Brunswick, **employers are required** to ensure the safe use of extension ladders under the **General Regulation Part XI, Sections 122, 124(2), 125**. **Employers must** provide ladders that are clean, properly maintained, and strong enough for the task, with extension ladders limited to three sections and **required** to have secure locks and specific minimum overlaps based on length. Workers **must** inspect ladders before use, secure them against movement, maintain proper climbing technique, and avoid standing on the top three rungs.

**Employers** play a key role in enforcing these standards to prevent falls and maintain safety on worksites.

## **XI – TEMPORARY STRUCTURES**

### **Portable ladder – general requirements**

(1) An **employer shall** ensure that a portable ladder used at a place of employment is:

- (a) of adequate strength and length,
- (b) clean and free of grease, and
- (c) maintained in a safe condition. **Section 122(1).**

### **Portable ladder**

(2) An **employer shall** ensure that a portable extension ladder:

- (a) has no more than three sections,
- (b) has locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in an extended position, and
- (c) when extended, maintains a minimum overlap as follows:
  - (i) where the ladder is 11 m or less, the overlap **shall** be 1 m;
  - (ii) where the ladder exceeds 11 m and is 15 m or less, the overlap **shall** be 1.25 m; and
  - (iii) where the ladder exceeds 15 m and is 22 m or less, the overlap **shall** be 1.5 m. **Section 124(2)**

### **Employee Responsibilities – Use of Portable Ladder**

(1) An employee who uses a portable ladder **shall**:

- (a) Inspect the ladder before use.
- (b) Report any unsafe condition of the ladder to the **employer**.

(c) Face the ladder and use both hands when climbing or descending.

(d) When standing on a ladder, stand in the centre between the side rails.

(2) An employee who uses a portable ladder **shall** ensure that:

(a) The ladder is secured against movement.

(b) The side rails of the ladder extend at least 1 m above any platform or landing to which the ladder is a means of access.

(c) If a step ladder, the legs are securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid support.

(3) An employee who uses a portable ladder **shall** not:

(a) Splice ladders together unless the spliced section is braced so that the spliced side rails are as strong as the original side rails.

(b) Place a ladder in front of or against a door unless the door is blocked in the open position, locked, or guarded.

(c) Use a ladder as scaffold flooring or as support for scaffold flooring.

(d) Stand on the material shelf, the top or the top step of a portable step ladder.

(e) Work from the top three rungs of a portable single or extension ladder.

(4) Paragraphs (1)(d) and (3)(c) and (e) do not apply to a firefighter engaged in structural firefighting or rescue.  
**Section 125 (1) to (4).**

**Further details on the General Regulation can be found at [laws.gnb.ca](http://laws.gnb.ca).**

## **NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

In Newfoundland and Labrador, **employers** are **required** to address extension ladder safety under the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#), **Part XI – Sections 151, 152, and 154**. **Employers must** ensure that portable ladders are inspected before each use and removed from service if any hazardous defects are found. Extension ladders **must** be properly inclined, resting on firm bases and strong supports, and workers are prohibited from standing on the top two rungs unless permitted by the manufacturer. Additionally, ladders **must** not be used as scaffold components unless designed for that purpose. **Employers must** also ensure workers maintain three points of contact and only perform light, short-duration tasks without fall protection if safe ladder positioning is maintained.

### **PART XI – SCAFFOLDS, STAGES, AND WORK PLATFORMS**

#### **Inspection**

Portable ladders **shall** be inspected before use, and ladders with loose, broken or missing rungs, split side rails, or other hazardous defects **shall** be removed from service. **Section 151.**

#### **Inclination and Support**

Where a portable single or extension ladder is in use:

(a) The ladder **shall** be placed so that the horizontal distance from the base to the vertical plane of support is approximately one-quarter of the ladder length between supports.

(b) The lower ends of the ladder side rails **shall** rest on a firm and level base and the upper support of the side rails **shall** be rested on a bearing surface strong enough to safely withstand the applied load. **Section 152.**

## Restrictions on Use

(1) Except as otherwise permitted by a manufacturer, a worker **shall** not work from either the top 2 rungs of a portable single or extension ladder or the top 2 steps of a stepladder.

(2) A ladder **shall** not be used as a scaffold component or as a horizontal walkway, ramp, or work platform support except where the ladder is part of a premanufactured or engineered system.

(3) A worker **shall** maintain 3 points of contact when using a ladder.

(4) A worker may only work from a portable ladder without fall protection where:

(a) The work is a light duty task of short duration at each location.

(b) The worker's centre of gravity is maintained between the ladder side rails.

(c) The ladder is not positioned near an edge or floor opening that would significantly increase the potential fall distance.

**Section 154 (1) to (4).**

**Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [assembly.nl.ca](https://www.assembly.nl.ca).**

## **NOVA SCOTIA**

In Nova Scotia, **employers must** comply with **Part 14, Sections 150–152** of the **[Occupational Safety General Regulations](#)** regarding extension ladders. Ladders **must** meet CSA Standard Z11, maintain proper overlap and secure locks, and be non-conductive near live electrical sources. **Employers must** ensure ladders are placed on firm footing, secured, and extend at least 1 metre above access points. Unsafe practices like

splicing ladders, using unstable bases, or placing ladders in hoistways are prohibited. For access heights over 6 metres with seven or more users, two ladder lines **must** be provided to ensure worker safety.

## **Part 14 – Excavations and Trenches**

**(1)** An **employer shall** ensure that a portable ladder that is commercially manufactured is designed, manufactured and maintained in accordance with the latest version of CSA standard Z11, “Portable Ladders”.

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), an **employer shall** ensure that Grade 3 portable ladders, as described in any edition of CSA standard CSA Z11, “Portable Ladders”, are not used at a workplace.

**(3)** An **employer shall** ensure that a commercially manufactured portable ladder:

(a) Where it is an extension ladder, maintains an adequate overlap between the sections of the ladder.

(b) Has locks engaged before the extension ladder is climbed.

(c) Where there is a risk of contact with live electrical conductors, is non-conductive. **Section 150 (1) to (3).**

**(1)** An **employer shall** ensure that when a portable ladder is used:

(a) It is placed on a firm footing.

(b) It is secured in an adequate manner against movement as soon as reasonably practicable.

(c) As a means of access or exit, it:

(i) has side rails that extend at least 1 m above any platform or landing, and

(ii) has a clearance of at least 150 mm between it and the supporting structure, except in the area where the ladder is supported against the structure; and

(d) as a step ladder, it has legs securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid support.

**(2)** An **employer shall** ensure that, when a portable ladder is used, it is not

(a) Spliced together with another ladder unless the spliced section is braced so that the spliced side rails are as strong as the original side rails.

(b) Placed in front of or against a door that can be opened towards the ladder unless the door is blocked in the open position, locked or guarded.

(c) Used as a scaffold, ramp, or as a support for such flooring.

(d) Placed on a box, barrel, scaffold, or other unstable base.

(e) Lashed to another ladder to increase its length.

(f) Located in an elevator shaft or hoistway when such space is being used for hoisting. **Section 151 (1)(2).**

Where a portable ladder is used as a means of access or exit for a height greater than 6 m and for 7 or more persons, an **employer shall** provide 2 separate lines of ladders. **Section 152.**

Further details on the Occupational Safety General Regulations can be found at [novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca).

## **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES & NUNAVUT**

In the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, under **Part 16, Sections 258–260** of the [Occupational Health and Safety](#)

**Regulations**, **employers** are responsible for ensuring extension ladders are safely designed, maintained, and used. Ladders **must** have secure locks, proper overlap between sections, and **must** not exceed specified length limits. They **must** be placed on stable surfaces, secured against movement, and extend at least 1 metre above landing points. **Employers must** also ensure workers are trained, maintain three-point contact, and avoid standing on the top two rungs unless permitted by design.

## **PART 16 – ENTRANCES, EXITS, AND LADDERS**

### **Ladders**

(1) An **employer** or supplier **shall** ensure that a ladder at a work site is designed, constructed, and used to safely perform its function and is maintained.

(2) An **employer** or supplier **shall** ensure that:

(a) a wooden ladder or stepladder is not painted with a substance other than a transparent coating; and

(b) a ladder is not made by fastening cleats across a single rail or post. **Section 258 (1)(2)**.

### **Portable Ladders**

(1) In this section and section 260, “portable ladder” means a ladder that is not fixed in place, and includes a stepladder.

(2) An **employer shall** ensure that a portable ladder:

(a) Is equipped with non-slip feet.

(b) Is secured against accidental movement during use.

(c) That is metal or wire-bound is not used if the ladder or a worker handling or using the ladder could come into contact with an exposed energized conductor.

(d) Extends not less than 1 m above a platform, roof or other



landing to which the ladder is used as a means of access.

(3) An **employer shall** ensure that each worker who handles or uses a portable ladder is instructed in the requirements of this section.

(4) An **employer shall** ensure that a stepladder:

(a) Is not more than 6 m high when set for use.

(b) Has legs that are securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid support.

(c) When in use, has a front section slope at an angle of one horizontal to six vertical.

(5) An **employer shall** ensure that:

(a) An extension ladder is equipped with locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in the extended position.

(b) If a section of an extension ladder is extended, the section that is extended overlaps another section for not less than 1 m.

(c) An extension ladder consisting of two sections does not exceed 14.6 m in length.

(d) An extension ladder consisting of more than two sections does not exceed 20 m in length.

(6) An **employer shall** ensure that none of the following exceeds 9 m in length:

(a) A single portable ladder.

(b) Any section of an extension ladder. **Section 259 (1) to (6).**

## **Use of Portable Ladders**

(1) If a worker uses a portable ladder other than a

stepladder, an **employer shall** ensure that:

(a) The ladder is placed against the structure so that the slope of the ladder is one horizontal to four vertical.

(b) The worker does not extend any part of their body other than their arms beyond the side rails of the ladder.

(c) The worker maintains a three-point stance on the ladder.

(d) The ladder is anchored to prevent movement

(i) at its base, and

(ii) at its upper points of support.

(2) An **employer shall** ensure that a worker does not work from either of the top two rungs or steps of a portable ladder, unless the ladder is a stepladder that has a platform equipped with a suitable handrail. **Section 260 (1)(2).**

**Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [canlii.org](http://canlii.org).**

## **ONTARIO**

In Ontario, under **Reg. 213/91: Construction Projects**, **Sections 81 to 83**, **employers must** ensure that extension and portable ladders are used safely and maintained according to manufacturer instructions. Ladders **must** be placed on firm, level surfaces and secured to prevent movement, with proper slope and spacing between rungs. When used for access between levels, they **must** extend at least 900 mm above the landing, have clear access areas, and be properly secured. **Employers must** also prohibit unsafe practices such as tying ladders together or standing on the top steps of stepladders or trestle ladders.

## **PART II – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION**

(1) A portable ladder

(a) **Shall** be free from defective or loose rungs.

(b) **Shall** be placed on a firm and level footing or support surface.

(c) **Shall** not be used in an elevator shaft or a similar hoisting area when the shaft or area is being used for hoisting.

(2) A non-self-supporting portable ladder **shall** be situated so that its base is not less than one-quarter, and not more than one-third, of the length of the ladder from a point directly below the top of the ladder and at the same level as the base of the ladder, if the ladder is not securely fastened to prevent its movement.

(3) A portable ladder or ladder section **shall** not be tied or fastened to another ladder or ladder section to increase its length unless the manufacturer's instructions allow for this.

(4) A manufactured portable ladder **shall** be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **Section 81 (1) to (4).**

(1) This section applies if a portable ladder is used as a means of access and egress between:

(a) Levels of a building or structure.

(b) The ground or grade level to a building or structure.

(c) Different work surface levels.

(2) The ladder:

(a) **Shall** extend at the upper level at least 900 millimetres above the landing surface.

(b) **Shall**, subject to subsection (3), have a clear space of at least 150 millimetres behind every rung.

(c) **Shall** be located so that an adequate landing surface that is clear of obstructions is available at the top and bottom of the ladder for access and egress.

(d) **Shall** be secured at the top and bottom to prevent movement of the ladder.

(3) Clause (2) (b) does not apply to a ladder lying on an excavation wall that is sloped, as **required** by section 234. **Section 82 (1) to (3).**

(1) When a stepladder is being used, its legs **shall** be fully spread open and its spreaders **shall** be locked.

(2) No worker **shall** stand or step on:

(a) The top cap, top step, or pail shelf of a stepladder.

(b) The top cap or top step of a combination ladder when it is used as a stepladder.

(c) The top step of the extension section of an extension trestle ladder.

(d) The top step of a trestle ladder. **Section 83 (1)(2).**

**Further details on the Reg. 213/91: CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS can be found at [ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca).**

## **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

In Prince Edward Island, **employers** are **required** to ensure safe ladder use under the **Occupational Health and Safety Act General Regulations** Part 23, Sections 23.1 to 23.8. **Employers must** provide ladders when no other safe access exists, remove defective ladders from service, and ensure all portable ladders have non-slip bases and are not substituted by makeshift items. Extension ladders **must** not exceed three sections or 60 ft in length, **must** have locking mechanisms, and maintain specific overlap distances based on extension length.

Workers **must** inspect ladders before use, maintain three-point contact, and avoid working from the top three rungs. Extension ladders **must** not be used as scaffolds or with ladder jacks.

## **PART 23 – LADDERS**

### **Use of Ladders**

(1) The **employer shall** provide a ladder where workers **must** work in an elevated or sub-level area not provided with other safe and recognizable means of access or egress.

### **Defective ladder**

(2) The **employer shall** ensure that a ladder is removed from service when it has loose, broken or missing rungs, split side rails or other hazardous defects.

### **General Obligations of Employer**

(3) The **employer shall** ensure that:

(a) All portable ladders **shall** be equipped with non-slip bases.

(b) Portable metal or wire truss ladders **shall** not be used in the vicinity of electrical circuits or apparatus when the hazard of electrical exposure is present.

(c) Benches, boxes, tables, or other makeshift substitutes **shall** not be used as ladders. **Section 23.1 (1) to (3).**

### **Specifications**

The user of a ladder **shall** ensure that:

(a) The base of an inclined portable ladder **shall** not be more than one-fourth the length of the ladder out from the vertical line of contact at the top unless the top is securely fastened.

(b) Side rails of ladders when in use **shall** have secure footing and the top rest **shall** be rigid and have ample strength to support the applied load.

(c) Where possible the top of the ladder **shall** be securely fastened to prevent movement.

(d) The side rails of a portable ladder **shall** extend at least 914 mm (3 ft.) above a landing.

(e) Side rails have a uniform clear width between them not less than 305 mm (12 in.) for ladders 3 048 mm (10 ft.) in length and under and increasing 6 mm (in.) in width for each additional 300 mm (1 ft.) in length. **Section 23.2 (a) to (e).**

### **General Obligations**

The user of a ladder **shall**:

(a) Inspect a ladder before use.

(b) Report any unsafe condition of the ladder to the **employer**.

(c) Not work from the top three rungs of a single or extension ladder.

(d) Not lash or splice ladders together.

(e) Not place a ladder in front of or against a door unless the door is blocked in the open position, locked or guarded.

(f) Use both hands and face the ladder when ascending or descending.

(g) When standing on a ladder, keep the centre of his body between the side rails. **Section 23.3 (a) to (g).**

### **Extension Ladders**

(1) The **employer shall** ensure that:

(a) Extension ladders, except when approved by the Division **shall** have no more than three sections and **shall** not exceed 18 288 mm (60 ft.) in length when fully extended.

(b) Extension ladders have locks which securely hold the sections of the ladder in an extended position.

(c) The minimum overlap of sections of extension ladders when extended for use **shall** be:

Up to 11582 mm (38ft.) extended.....914 mm (3 ft.) overlap

Up to 13411 mm (44 ft.) extended.....1219 mm (4 ft.) overlap

Up to 15240 mm (50 ft.) extended.....1524 mm (5 ft.) overlap

Up to 15240 mm (50 ft.) extended.....1829 mm (6 ft.) overlap

### **Ladder Jacks**

(2) Ladder jacks **shall** not be used on extension ladders.

### **Scaffold**

(3) Extension ladders **shall** not be used as part of a scaffold.  
**Section 23.8 (1) to (3).**

**Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Act General Regulations can be found at [princeedwardisland.ca](http://princeedwardisland.ca).**

## **QUÉBEC**

In Québec, **employers must** ensure the safe use of extension ladders under **Sections 26, 27, 29, and 30** of the **[Regulation Respecting Occupational Health and Safety](#)**. Ladders **must** rest on a firm base, be properly inclined or secured, and extend

900 mm above the landing when used for access. Extension ladders cannot exceed 15 m and **must** have the raised section on top. Use near electrical circuits is prohibited if the ladder is metal, and workers **must** not stand on the top rungs unless allowed by the manufacturer. **Employers** are responsible for enforcing proper use and ensuring worker safety when using ladders.

**Installation conditions:** Portable ladders **shall**:

(1) Rest on a firm base with the upper part propped on the 2 siderails.

(2) Be firmly held in place by one or more persons, if they are not firmly attached and if their length is equal to or more than 9 m.

(3) Be protected against any sliding and against any shock that could compromise equilibrium.

(4) If not firmly fixed, be so inclined that the horizontal distance between the base of the ladder and the vertical plane of its top support is approximately between the quarter and the third of the length of the ladder between its supports.

(5) Where used as a means of access:

(a) Be firmly fixed in place.

(b) Extend 900 mm beyond the top storey.

(c) Have a space behind the rungs of at least 150 mm.

(6) Be set in such a manner that there is sufficient space at the base allowing safe access.

(7) *(paragraph revoked)*

(8) Never be linked to another ladder, end to end, by lapped joints.



(9) *(paragraph revoked)*.

(10) *(paragraph revoked)*

(11) Not be put on scaffolding, an elevated platform, an aerial basket or platform, on crates, barrels or in front of a door opening onto the ladder.

(12) If applicable, have the sections properly assembled and the locks properly engaged. **Section [26.](#) (1) to (12).**

**Portable extension ladder:** The length of a portable extension ladder with 2 or more extensions, measured along the siderails, cannot exceed 15 m.

Where the ladder is deployed, the raised section **shall** mandatorily be on top of the lower section at all times during use. **Section [27.](#)**

**Prohibited Usages:** It is prohibited:

(1) To use a portable ladder or a stepladder near an exposed electrical circuit, if it is made of metal or is metal-reinforced.

(2) To use a portable ladder or a stepladder as a horizontal support.

(3) To stand up on:

(a) the last 2 rungs of a portable ladder, and

(b) the top rung, on the pail shelf, on the rear section or on the top of a stepladder, except if it was so designed by the manufacturer.

(4) To use the intermediate or upper section of a multiple-section ladder or of an extension ladder as the lower section, unless such use is authorized by the manufacturer. **Section [29.](#) (1) to (4).**

**Safety precautions:** The worker **shall**:

- (1) Be facing the portable ladder or stepladder at all times.
- (2) Remain in the centre of the steps or rungs of the portable ladder or stepladder and comply at all times with the maximum height indicated by the manufacturer.
- (3) Maintain 3 points of contact while climbing or descending the portable ladder or stepladder, unless a means of protection against falls is used. **Section [30. \(1\) to \(3\)](#).**

**Further details on the Regulation Respecting Occupational Health and Safety can be found at [gouv.qc.ca](http://gouv.qc.ca).**

## **SASKATCHEWAN**

In Saskatchewan, **employers must** comply with the **[Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Part 16, Sections 16-5 to 16-7](#)**, regarding extension ladders. **Employers are required** to ensure all ladders are safely designed, maintained, and used, including equipping portable ladders with non-slip feet, securing them during use, and avoiding metal ladders near electrical conductors. Extension ladders **must** have locks to secure extended sections, maintain minimum overlaps of 1 metre, and not exceed 14.6 m for two-section or 20 m for multi-section ladders. **Employers must** also ensure workers are trained in safe ladder use and maintain a three-point stance, using the ladder at a safe angle and never standing on the top two rungs unless permitted.

### **PART 16 – Entrances, Exits, and Ladders**

#### **Ladders**

**(1)** An **employer**, contractor or supplier **shall** ensure that every ladder is designed, constructed, used, and maintained to perform its function safely.

(2) An **employer**, contractor, or supplier **shall** ensure that:

(a) No wooden ladder or stepladder is painted with any substance other than a transparent coating, and

(b) no ladder is made by fastening cleats across a single rail or post. **Section 16-5 (1)(2).**

### **Portable Ladders**

(1) In this section and Section 16-7, “portable ladder” means any ladder that is not fixed in place, and includes a stepladder.

(2) An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that:

(a) A portable ladder is equipped with non-slip feet.

(b) A portable ladder is secured against accidental movement during use.

(c) A metal or wire-bound portable ladder is not used where the ladder or a worker handling or using the ladder may come into contact with an exposed energized electrical conductor.

(d) A portable ladder extends at least 1 metre above any platform, roof, or other landing to which the ladder is used as a means of access.

(3) An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that each worker who handles or uses a portable ladder is instructed in the requirements of this section.

(4) An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that a stepladder:

(a) is not more than 6 metres high when set for use,

(b) has legs that are securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid support, and

(c) when in use, has a front section slope at an angle of 1

horizontal to 6 vertical.

**(5)** An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that:

(a) An extension ladder is equipped with locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in the extended position.

(b) If a section of an extension ladder is extended, the section that is extended overlaps another section for at least 1 metre.

(c) An extension ladder consisting of 2 sections does not exceed 14.6 metres in length.

(d) An extension ladder consisting of more than 2 sections does not exceed 20 metres in length.

**(6)** An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that no single portable ladder and no section of an extension ladder exceeds 9 metres in length. **Section 16-6 (1) to (6).**

### **Use of Portable Ladders**

**(1)** If a worker uses a portable ladder other than a stepladder, an **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that:

(a) The ladder is placed against the structure so that the slope of the ladder is 1 horizontal to 4 vertical.

(b) The worker does not extend any part of the worker's body except for the worker's arms beyond the side rails of the ladder.

(c) The worker maintains a three-point stance on the ladder at all times.

**(2)** An **employer** or contractor **shall** ensure that a worker does not work from either of the top 2 rungs or steps of a portable ladder, unless the ladder is a stepladder that has a platform equipped with a suitable handrail. **Section 16-7 (1)(2).**

Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca).

## **YUKON**

In Yukon, **employers** are **required** to address extension ladder safety under the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) **Part 10, Sections 10.28 and 10.29**. **Employers must** ensure that extension ladders have no more than three sections, are equipped with locks to secure the extended position, and maintain minimum overlaps ranging from 1 to 1.5 metres depending on ladder length. Workers **must** inspect ladders before use, report unsafe conditions, secure ladders over 3 m in height, and ensure the ladder extends at least 1 m above landing surfaces. Ladders **must** be properly angled and not used near energized electrical lines or as scaffold supports. These measures are essential to prevent falls and ensure safe access during construction tasks.

### **Part 10 – Construction and Building Safety**

#### **Portable Extension Ladders**

A portable extension ladder **shall**:

- (a) Have no more than three sections.
- (b) Have locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in an extended position.
- (c) When extended, **shall** maintain a minimum overlap as follows:
  - 1. where the ladder is 11 m (36 ft.) or less, the overlap is at least 1 m (3 ft.),
  - 2. where the ladder exceeds 11 m (36 ft.) and is less than 15 m (49 ft.), the overlap is at least 1.25 m (4 ft.), and

iii. where the ladder exceeds 15 m (49 ft.) and is less than 20 m (66 ft.), the overlap is at least 1.5 m (5 ft.). **Section 10.28.**

### **Worker's Responsibilities**

The worker who uses a portable ladder **shall** ensure that:

(a) the ladder is appropriate for the task being performed,

### **Inspection**

(b) the ladder is inspected before use,

### **Unsafe**

(c) any unsafe condition of the ladder is reported to the employer,

### **Climbing**

(d) the ladder is faced and both hands used when climbing or descending,

(e) when standing on a ladder, he or she stands in the centre between the side rails,

### **Beyond landing**

(f) the side rails of the ladder extend at least 1 m (3 ft.) above any platform or landing to which the ladder is a means of access,

### **Secured**

(g) where extended to a height of more than 3 m (10 ft.), it is effectively secured or held in place by another worker,

### **Stepladder**

(h) if it is a stepladder, the legs are securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid

support,

(i) a stepladder is used only when the front section has a maximum pitch of one in six in the open position,

(j) when used as a self-supporting unit, the legs of a stepladder are fully spread and the spreader is locked,

(k) he or she does not work or stand on the top:

1. two rungs of a stepladder, except in cases where the stepladder is equipped with a railed platform, and
2. three rungs of a portable single or extension ladder,

### **Splicing**

(l) ladders are not spliced together unless the spliced section is braced so that the spliced side rails are as strong as the original side rails,

### **Use**

(m) a ladder is not placed in front of or against a door unless the door is blocked in the open position, locked or guarded,

(n) a ladder is not used as scaffold flooring or as support for scaffold flooring,

### **Near electricity**

(o) ladders made of metal or electrically conductive material are not used when working within 3 m (10 ft.) of energized electrical lines, and

### **Angle**

(p) if the ladder is not securely fastened, it is placed so that the base of the ladder is not less than one-quarter and not more than one-third of the length of the ladder from a point directly below the top of the ladder and at the same

level as the base of the ladder. **Section 10.29 (a) to (p).**

Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [wcb.yk.ca](http://wcb.yk.ca).

## **NUNAVUT**

In Nunavut, under **Part 16, Sections 258–260 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations**, employers are responsible for ensuring extension ladders are safely designed, maintained, and used. Ladders **must** have secure locks, proper overlap between sections, and **must** not exceed specified length limits. They **must** be placed on stable surfaces, secured against movement, and extend at least 1 metre above landing points. **Employers must** also ensure workers are trained, maintain three-point contact, and avoid standing on the top two rungs unless permitted by design.

### **PART 16 – ENTRANCES, EXITS AND LADDERS**

#### **Ladders**

(1) An **employer** or supplier **shall** ensure that a ladder at a work site is designed, constructed and used to safely perform its function and is maintained.

(2) An **employer** or supplier **shall** ensure that

(a) a wooden ladder or stepladder is not painted with a substance other than a transparent coating; and

(b) a ladder is not made by fastening cleats across a single rail or post. **Section 258 (1)(2)**

#### **Portable Ladders**

(1) In this section and section 260, “portable ladder” means a ladder that is not fixed in place, and includes a stepladder.



(2) An **employer shall** ensure that a portable ladder

(a) is equipped with non-slip feet;

(b) is secured against accidental movement during use;

(c) that is metal or wire-bound is not used if the ladder or a worker handling or using the ladder could come into contact with an exposed energized conductor; and

(d) extends not less than 1 m above a platform, roof or other landing to which the ladder is used as a means of access.

(3) An **employer shall** ensure that each worker who handles or uses a portable ladder is instructed in the requirements of this section.

(4) An **employer shall** ensure that a stepladder

(a) is not more than 6 m high when set for use;

(b) has legs that are securely held in position by means of metal braces or an equivalent rigid support; and

(c) when in use, has a front section slope at an angle of one horizontal to six vertical.

(5) An **employer shall** ensure that

(a) an extension ladder is equipped with locks that securely hold the sections of the ladder in the extended position;

(b) if a section of an extension ladder is extended, the section that is extended overlaps another section for not less than 1 m;

(c) an extension ladder consisting of two sections does not exceed 14.6 m in length; and

(d) an extension ladder consisting of more than two sections does not exceed 20 m in length.

(6) An **employer shall** ensure that none of the following exceeds 9 m in length:

- (a) a single portable ladder;
- (b) any section of an extension ladder. **Section 259 (1) to (6)**

### **Use of Portable Ladders**

(1) If a worker uses a portable ladder other than a stepladder, an **employer shall** ensure that

- (a) the ladder is placed against the structure so that the slope of the ladder is one horizontal to four vertical;
- (b) the worker does not extend any part of their body other than their arms beyond the side rails of the ladder;
- (c) the worker maintains a three-point stance on the ladder; and
- (d) the ladder is anchored to prevent movement
  - (i) at its base, and
  - (ii) at its upper points of support.

(2) An **employer shall** ensure that a worker does not work from either of the top two rungs or steps of a portable ladder, unless the ladder is a stepladder that has a platform equipped with a suitable handrail. **Section 260 (1)(2)**

**Further details on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations can be found at [canlii.org](https://canlii.org)**