



STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

MDS:mds sf-013

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Mr T Liddle
5 David Street
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Dear Mr Liddle

Jomy Safety Ladders

The Standards Australia Technical Committees SF-013, Platforms, Gangways, Stairways and Ladders and SF-034, Portable ladders have responsibility for developing and maintaining AS 1657, Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders—Design, construction and installation and the AS/NZS 1892 series of Standards, dealing with portable ladders.

Both Committees have examined documentation relating to the Jomy Safety ladder, and both agree that the concept of the ladder, and its intended use as a means of evacuation from buildings or for gaining access where a conventional ladder cannot easily be used, has considerable merit. Both committees also agree that the design of the ladder does not fall within the scope of either AS 1657, or the AS/NZS 1892 series of Standards and therefore requirements for Jomy style ladders have not been included in either Standard.

The fact that the Jomy ladder cannot meet all the requirements for either fixed, or portable ladders does not mean that it cannot be used. Nor does it mean that its use as either an evacuation system, or access where a conventional ladder cannot be used is prohibited by either AS 1657, or the AS/NZS 1892 series of Standards. Committee SF-013 has noted that the Jomy system of ladders can be fitted with fall-arrest systems complying with AS/NZS 1891, Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices, for use where a risk assessment indicates the need.

During our discussions you stated that AS 1657 requires rung ladders to have an angle of slope of 70 degrees above the horizontal. In fact, AS 1657 allows a rung ladder to have an angle of slope of up to 90 degrees above the horizontal. A vertical rung ladder is now widely used to gain access to work areas. I would point out that the Occupational Health and Safety Acts currently used across most Australian states and territories, require that a risk assessment be carried out for items of plant, and dependant upon the findings of the risk assessment, control measures may need to be put in place, such as fall arrest equipment.

Under some conditions, including limitations of space, or prevention of unauthorized access, a ladder such as the Jomy Safety Ladder, could be considered a control measure to free space for clear access in a narrow passage, or because it can be locked in the folded state, prevent unauthorized access.

Yours sincerely


31 March 2005.

Michael Sanderson
Projects Manager
Committee FS-013 and SF-034