

# How to choose the right ladder

## WHICH SIZE?

Always consider carefully which size of ladder is required. Remember that working height, ie the height that can be comfortably reached, is:

- Approximately 2m (6'0") above quoted platform heights for stepladders/stools.
- Approximately equal to extended lengths for extension ladders.
- Approximately 1m (3'0") above quoted top tread heights for 3 ways/combination ladders in any mode.

## WHAT RATING?

Ladders should be designed to British Standards. This classifies the ladder according to the type of use and loading levels they are capable of withstanding. Consider carefully all these factors before choosing and always look for the Kitemark. If in doubt, select the stronger product. Classification is as follows:

| STEPLADDERS/3 WAYS/COMBINATION/EXTENSION LADDERS |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BS 2037<br/>Class 1</b>                       | HEAVY DUTY.<br>Max. Vertical static load 175kg(27.5st). Duty Rating 130kgs(20.4st) Max.                              |
| <b>BS EN 131</b>                                 | LIGHT TRADE /DIY<br>Max. Vertical static load 150kg(23.6st).<br>(Replaced previous BS 2037 Class 2 in November 1995. |
| <b>BS 2037<br/>Class 3</b>                       | DOMESTIC/DIY ONLY<br>Max. Vertical static load 125kg(19.5st). Duty Rating 95kgs(15st) Max.                           |
| STEP STOOLS                                      |  |
| <b>BS 7377<br/>Class G</b>                       | GENERAL DOMESTIC/LIGHT COMMERCIAL<br>Duty Rating 100kgs(15.8st) Max.   |
| LOFT LADDERS                                     |  |
| <b>BS 7553<br/>Class H</b>                       | HEAVY DUTY.<br>Duty Rating 150kgs (23.6st) Max.  |
| <b>BS 7553<br/>Class G</b>                       | GENERAL DUTY<br>Duty Rating 100kgs (15.8st) Max.   |

## USE

There are three key guidelines for using ladders:

1. Always use the correct ladder for the job. Check the type, size and rating.
2. Always use 'Kitemarked' products. Look for the British Standards logo.
3. Always follow manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.

Abru Ltd., Derwentside Ind. Park, Derby Rd., Belper, Derby DE56 1WE. Tel:  
01773 525700 Fax: 01773 880790

