

LADDER SAFETY SERIES

Supervisor responsibilities

As a supervisor, you play a key role in making sure the workers under your supervision use ladders safely. Here are some of the things you must do.



Ladders can be dangerous. It's up to you to make sure workers use ladders safely.

Make sure suitable equipment is provided

Ladders may be suitable for:

- accessing work areas, such as a roof, mezzanine or scaffolding
- minor maintenance tasks such as caulking, touch-up painting, inspection of gutters or other light-duty tasks that take no more than 15 minutes to complete

When workers are using ladders on the job, make sure that the ladders:

- are in good condition
- are strong and tall enough to allow workers to complete their work safely
- meet standards outlined under the *Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*

If you don't think ladders are the most suitable equipment for the job, let your employer know that a safer alternative, such as a work platform, stairs or a ramp, might be needed.

Make sure workers are trained

- participate in ladder safety training
- provide safety orientations and on-the-job training as directed by your employer

Make sure workers set up and use ladders safely

When supervising workers, watch for these key ladder safety requirements.

- Ladders must be inspected before use. Damaged or bent ladders must be taken out of service.
- Ladders must be placed on a firm and level surface and set up so that they are stable and secure.
- Straight or extension ladders must be set up at the required angle, using the 4-to-1 rule: for every four feet (1.2 metres) up, workers must place the base of their ladder one foot (0.3 metres) from the wall or upper support it rests against.
- Workers must maintain three-point contact when climbing any ladder and when working from a straight or extension ladder.
- Workers must keep their bodies centred between the side rails.
- Workers must not work from the top two rungs or steps of a ladder, unless it is a stepladder that has a platform and handrail (*Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020 16-7(2)*).

Address safety issues

Make sure workers know that they should inform you or their employer about their ladder safety concerns or questions. Take appropriate corrective actions to address safety issues brought to your attention.