

LADDER GUARD

As an alternative measure - where it is not reasonably practicable to remove bottom lift ladders out of hours – a ladder guard may be a suitable alternative. This is a sturdy proprietary metal plate that hooks over and padlocks onto several rungs of the ladder to deny access. Site made timber alternatives may be acceptable so long as they are robust and can be locked in place. When using ladder guards, the following should be noted:

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- They must be locked or padlocked in place – rope lashing is not acceptable.
 - They must make each rung unusable – i.e. no more than 50mm of rung should be exposed when the guard is pushed as far sideways as possible.
 - They should cover at least 6 rungs (i.e. prevent the foot being placed on at least 5 rungs).
 - They must not be able to slide over the ladder stile, thereby exposing the rungs.
 - They must not be able to tilt or pull away from the ladder – rungs should not be exposed at the front or be climbable from the rear.
 - Carrying slots, if provided, should be vertical (along the long axis of the guard) not horizontal where they could be used as a foothold.
 - Handles, if fitted, should not provide an alternative foothold.
 - Guards will need to be matched to certain ladders and not used on others i.e. a narrow guard is only suitable for a narrow ladder and if used on a wide ladder sufficient rung width could be exposed to allow the ladder to be climbed.
 - Fabric versions are not suitable for use in public places; or for external use in areas that may be accessed by the public; or for internal public areas that are unstaffed.



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A ladder guard that is not wide enough for the ladder it is fitted to. Small feet can still climb the exposed rungs and the guard could slide even further to one side. Narrow ladder guards are only suitable for narrow ladders. No more than 50mm of exposed rung should be visible when the guard is tight to one side of the ladder.

References

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg151.htm>

BS EN 12811-1:2003 Temporary works equipment- Part 1: Scaffolds - Performance requirements and general design

NASC Safety Guidance SG 25:17 (under review)

Technical Guidance TG 20:13 A comprehensive guide to good practice for tube and fitting scaffolding - Operational Guide.

Information taken from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/ladders-and-scaffold-security.htm>

