



SUBJECT: **Combination & Telescopic Ladders**

RECIPIENTS: **All Services – Including Schools**

ISSUE DATE: **August 2017** REF: **HSB89**

Combination ladders

Following a recent fatal accident investigation, the HSE is strongly advising all duty holders and users of combination ladders to ensure that they:

- carry out pre-use checks;
- use them in accordance with instructions;
- check the locking mechanism(s).

Failure to do so could result in serious accidents.



Telescopic ladders

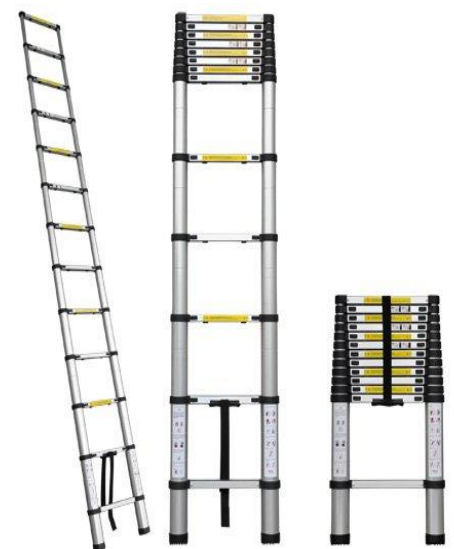
The use of telescopic ladders is growing more popular due to their ease of storage and convenience; however, there are numerous issues with many of these products due to the number of components involved and their construction, namely:

- they are often rated for a lower load (person, tools and materials);
- the stiles are prone to greater bending;
- they are prone to greater bending of the frame.

The issues are likely to increase with the height of the ladder.

Duty holders and users should ensure that:

- pre-use checks on the ladders are thorough, checking the components and operation of each and every locking mechanism (often one or two per rung) and the associated release mechanism(s);
- the ladders are stored well, transported carefully and maintained (including cleaning) as dirt and grit etc. can affect locking mechanisms;
- they understand the limitations and likely performance of their ladder, e.g. strength, bending etc.



Further info can be found at:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHSE/bulletins/1b10041>

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk