



Safety Alert Number: **0000038** ****UPDATED****

Issued on **January 24, 2025** by Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

CSA Approved Step stools

Legal information

Related compliance requirements:

[Occupational Safety General Regulations \(OSGR\)](#), sections 147 through 152
[CSA Standards](#), CSA Z11, “Portable Ladders”

Summary

The Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration – Safety Branch would like to provide additional clarity regarding the use of devices commonly referred to as Step Stools in the workplace.

The previous bulletin issued December 3, 2024 has been repealed and replaced by this bulletin.

Context

There appears to be 2 main points of consideration.

1. Are Step Stools available that are designed and manufactured in accordance with CSA Z11?
2. Can a device that may be commonly referred to as a Step Stool, but falls out of the design scope of CSA Z11 be used in the workplace?

There appears to be misunderstanding with the use of the term step stool. CSA Z11 does in fact include step stools within the scope and the definition of a portable ladder. However, the definition of what constitutes an in-scope step stool is further defined in section 6.4 of CSA Z11.



SAFETY BULLETIN



Some devices commonly used in workplaces fall out of scope of the CSA Z11 requirements due to their inherent design and not meeting the definition. There are many of these devices in the industry that are commercially manufactured, come with manufacturer specifications, and are widely used in the workplace that may be safe for use. These devices may utilize terms such as foot stool, footrest, step, step platform, or even the ambiguous term step stool.

An example of this is a cylinder with no steps - simply a top platform. This platform is outside of the scope of the Z11 standard. In this case employers need to ensure it is safe and appropriate for the type of work you are going to use it for by conducting a hazard assessment. It must also be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer specifications including adhering to any weight restrictions cited by the manufacturer.



Typical cylinder style step stool –
NOT covered by CSA Standard definition

If a Step Stool or platform is available at the workplace and is of a design requirement that is in scope of the definition of a Portable Ladder, it must be designed and manufactured in accordance with CSA Z11.



SAFETY BULLETIN



The OSGR's also require the use of Grade 1 or 2 Portable Ladders for devices that fall in scope. Grade 3 Ladders or devices noted as "Household Use Only" are not permitted to be used at workplaces.



Typical Step stool / step ladder covered by
CSA Standard definition

Ladders and step ladders requirements are noted in Sections 147 to 152 of the Occupational Safety General Regulations which references the latest version of CSA Standard Z11 Portable Ladders.

Additional information regarding the safe use of step ladders is available. For further details, please consult the relevant legislation or the [Nova SAFE](#) website.

Contact for bulletin queries

Safety Branch

Labour, Skills and Immigration

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