



Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders—Design, construction and installation



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee SF-013, Platforms, Gangways, Stairways and Ladders. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 22 February 2018.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-013:

- Australian Aluminium Council
 - Australian Building Codes Board
 - Australian Industry Group
 - Australian Rope Access Association
 - Energy Networks Association
 - Engineers Australia
 - SafeWork NSW
 - WorkSafe Victoria
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 1657:2017.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

**Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways
and ladders—Design, construction and
installation**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee SF-013, Platforms, Gangways, Stairways and Ladders, to supersede AS 1657—2013.

The objective of this Standard is to provide technical specifications and criteria for fixed platforms, walkways, guardrails, stairways, ladders and permanently configured (but movable) platforms that are used in the workplace, to reduce the risks to the safety of users.

The objective of this revision is to clarify a number of clauses where the text was causing some confusion with readers and to improve the clarity of some figures. The bulk of the Standard is not affected by this revision.

Changes in this edition include the following:

- (a) Clarification to the word ‘level’, which generally meant replacing it with less ambiguous words. Definitions for ladder flight and landings have been revised to replace the word ‘level’.
- (b) Figure 5.4(b) has been revised to align with the text of the Clause relating to rectangular handrails.
- (c) Clauses 5.6.4 and 5.6.5 have been revised.
- (d) Clause 7.3.6(a) is accompanied by a new figure, which has been included to clarify the ‘length of the landing’.
- (e) Figures 7.5 and 7.9 have been revised to align with the text of the relevant clauses.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

This Standard incorporates a Commentary on some of the clauses. The Commentary directly follows the relevant clause, is designated by ‘C’ preceding the clause number and is printed in italics in a panel. The Commentary is intended to help readers understand the background to the clause but does not form part of the clause.

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