

CONFERENCE AGENDA

1947 - 2022 *the* **LADDER**
ASSOCIATION
YEARS 20 OCTOBER | STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
CONFERENCE 2022

Thursday 20 October 2022

08:00 - Registration opens

Stop by our registration desk to pick up your name badge and enjoy tea, coffee and pastries.

HOTEL RECEPTION FOR REGISTRATION, THEN ONTO TERRACE ATRIUM FOR REFRESHMENTS

09:00 - Annual Members' Meeting

All Ladder Association members are warmly invited to attend our Annual Members' Meeting. Learn about the Ladder Association's activities over the past 12 months, hear from our committee chairs, meet our newest council and committee members, and ask your burning questions.

GRAND BALLROOM



10:00 - Welcome to Ladder Conference 2022

with **Peter Bennett OBE (Ladder Association Executive Director)**

Join Peter as he welcomes delegates to this year's celebratory 75th Anniversary Ladder Association Conference, and hands the conference reins across to our host for the day, Ladder Association Chairman, Gail Hounslea (Ladderstore).

GRAND BALLROOM - ALL DAY



10:05 - Celebrating 75 years of ladder safety

with **Gail Hounslea (Ladder Association Chairman)**

Ladder products and ladder safety have come a long way since the Ladder Association was founded in 1947. Gail takes us a trip down memory lane as we look at how ladders, and the Association, have progressed (with a video kindly produced by Ladderstore).



10:15 - Reducing falls from height: how can we get it right?

with **Hannah Williams (No Falls Foundation)**

Falls from height remain one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities and injuries - accounting for 29 fatalities in 2021/2022 - with many injuries having life-changing consequences for the victim and their families, even from low level falls such as ladders. Hannah discusses the current statistics and asks what can we do as a collective, to reduce these avoidable incidents.



#LadderConf

10:40 - Morning break

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the Terrace Atrium. Feel free to also wander the exhibition zone in the Ballroom and see the latest ladder products on the market from our members.

TERRACE ATRIUM / EXHIBITION ZONE

11:00 - Collaboration is key for safer work at height

with Paul Cook (HSE)

Paul will discuss the ongoing successful collaboration between the HSE and the Ladder Association, including updates to their web-based guidance on ladders and stepladders and the revision of industry guidance INDG 455 - now LA 455.



11:30 - b2 or not b2...that is the question?

with Don Aers (Ladder Association)

A revision of EN 131 (the European design standard for portable ladders) in 2015, resulted in a dimensional change to all types of leaning ladder. The change, referred to in the ladder industry as the b2 dimension, has been a hot topic for debate since its introduction. Don will look at the developments and outcomes that have occurred since the standard changed...

b2 or not b2, that is the question?



12:00 - Roof Ladder User Survey: our initial findings

with Francis Camilleri (TB Davies Cardiff Ltd)

Roof ladders or roof crawlers have been around for hundreds of years, and the aluminium roof ladder has been in everyday use since the 1970's. Francis, as Chair of the Ladder Association's Technical Committee, will give an update on our recent Roof Ladder User Survey, and how we'll use this valuable insight to help make roof ladders safer.



12:15 - Lunch

Lunch is served in the restaurant. Once you've eaten, feel free to take a wander round the exhibition!

CROWNE PLAZA RESTAURANT

13:15 - Product safety: policy and enforcement

with Mike Kearney (Office for Product Safety & Standards - OPSS)

With a focus on policy and enforcement, Mike will discuss product regulation across the full product lifecycle and the importance of co-ordinating national and local regulation to enforce product safety regulations. He'll look at how the OPSS work with business and other stakeholders to help bring safe products to the market, and importantly, recall unsafe products when needed.



13:45 - Step up to safe ladders: market surveillance

with Peter Bennett OBE (Ladder Association), Phil Reed (Suffolk County Council Trading Standards) & John Darby (Test & Research Centre)

Recent research and testing of a sample of imported telescopic ladders showed that 4 out of 5 of the ladders tested failed the required safety tests designed to keep users safe!

This session will highlight the need for market surveillance, and give an insight into the rigorous product testing carried out in the study commissioned by the Ladder Association, in partnership with Trading Standards.



14:25 - Afternoon break

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the Terrace Atrium. Don't forget to also wander the exhibition zone in the Ballroom and see the latest ladder products on the market from our members.

TERRACE ATRIUM / EXHIBITION ZONE

14:40 - Improving ladder safety in the housebuilding sector with Sara Cartin (Home Builders Federation) & Nathan Preston (Gleeson Homes)

In 2019/20 ladder incidents accounted for 33% of all fall from height incidents reported by HBF members through RIDDOR. Despite a year-on-year reduction since then (now 23%), there is still more to be done. Sara and Nathan will give an insight into the recent work with the Ladder Association and Access Industry Forum in producing practical guidance to help reduce falls from ladders on site.



15:05 - Updates from across the pond with Ryan Moss (American Ladder Institute)

While the conference today has looked at what's happening here in the UK, we turn our attention to ladder trends 'across the pond'. We hear from the American Ladder Institute's President, Ryan Moss, about developments in the States as they also celebrate their 75th anniversary this year!



15:25 - Round-up & close with Peter Bennett OBE (Ladder Association Executive Director)

Peter looks ahead to what's coming next for the Ladder Association, reminds us what we learned at today's event and challenges us to put the advice into action in our own workplaces.



15:30 - Conference ends

Thanks for joining us, please do wander the exhibition zone before you go!