

## MANUAL FOR SAFE USE OF PORTABLE CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

This manual provides guidelines for the **inspection, setup, use, and maintenance** of portable climbing equipment such as ladders and step ladders. Follow these instructions to prevent accidents and damage.

The **Gevelridder Products aluminum ladder/step**, manufactured in the Netherlands under the responsibility of **ALGA BV**, meets the requirements of the **Portable Climbing Equipment Decree (Warenwet)**. This ladder is of **high quality and ensures safety** in terms of strength and construction. However, a ladder is only truly safe **if used properly and treated with care**.

It is essential to **read and follow** the usage and maintenance instructions below.

- **Never** use a ladder or step with more than **one person at a time**.
- **Do not use the ladder for lifting**—use the **Gevelridder** lifting aid instead.

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## A. INSPECTION AND PREPARATION

### 1. General Inspection

- Check the climbing equipment **upon receipt and before each use** for **defects, damage, and wear**.
- Look for **bent or loose parts, cracks in the material, and stability issues** in the structure.

### 2. Safety Check Before Use

- Inspect **all fasteners, hinges, and legs** for their condition and functionality.
- **Never use damaged or defective climbing equipment**.
- Have **repairs performed only by a qualified specialist**; do not attempt **temporary fixes**.

### 3. Keep Clean and Free from Contaminants

- Keep climbing equipment clean and **free from dirt such as mud, paint, snow, oil, or grease**.
- Ensure that **wet or slippery substances do not reduce grip**.

## B. APPLICATION AND PLACEMENT

### General Guidelines

1. **Use Only for Intended Purpose**
  - Use portable climbing equipment **only for climbing**, not as a **work platform, scaffold, lifting aid, or for any other unintended purpose**.
2. **Proper Setup**
  - Always place climbing equipment **on stable and level ground**.
  - **Do not position it upside down or backwards**.
  - **Do not place it against round or narrow columns** without additional security.
3. **Surface and Stability**
  - **Never place climbing equipment on unstable or slippery objects** such as tables, crates, boxes, or any other unsteady surfaces.
  - **Do not** use on slopes or slippery surfaces without additional **stabilization**.
  - If placed on **soft ground (e.g., grass, sand)**, use a **stable baseplate**.
4. **Special Circumstances**
  - When used **near a door or passageway**, ensure the **door is locked or blocked**.
  - **Do not use metal ladders within 2.5 meters** of an **electrical installation under voltage**.
  - For **work near high-voltage installations**, follow **specific safety guidelines** (see **NEN 1041**).
  - **Do not use climbing equipment outdoors in strong winds** (wind force **6 or higher**) or during **thunderstorms**.
  - **Never leave climbing equipment unattended**, especially near children.
5. **Correct Ladder Placement**
  - The distance between the **ladder base and the wall should be approximately a quarter of the ladder's length**.
  - The **ladder should be set at a 75° angle** against the wall.
  - Use a ladder of **sufficient length**—it should **extend at least 1 meter above the desired stepping-off point**.
6. **Multi-Part Ladders**
  - For **telescopic or extendable ladders**, ensure **hooks firmly grip the rungs**.
  - Secure the **loose end of the pulley rope** to prevent **accidental retraction**.

## C. CLIMBING AND USAGE

### 1. Climbing Properly

- Always **face the ladder when climbing**.
- Keep at least **one hand free** to hold on.
- **Do not stand on the top four rungs** of a ladder without a platform.
- **Do not overreach**—move the ladder when needed.

### 2. Appropriate Clothing and Footwear

- Do not wear **slippers, high heels, clogs, or shoes with smooth soles**.
- Use **sturdy, non-slip work shoes**.

### 3. Maximum Load Capacity

- **Only one person at a time** is allowed on a ladder.
- **Multi-part ladders** should only be **climbed on the designated side**.

### 4. Safe Work from a Ladder

- Always keep **both feet on the ladder**.
- Do not stand with **one foot on the ladder and one on another object** (e.g., a windowsill).
- **Never move a ladder while someone is on it**.

## D. MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

### 1. Regular Inspection

- Check climbing equipment **regularly** for **wear, cracks, bends, and loose parts**.
- Have any **damage repaired immediately** by a qualified professional.

### 2. Cleaning and Protection

- **Keep the ladder clean and dry.**
- **Wooden ladders:**
  - Treat **at least once per year** with a **protective coating that is neither opaque nor vapor-sealing**.
  - **Do not paint wooden ladders**, as this may **hide defects**.

### 3. Proper Storage for Extended Lifespan

- **Prevent sagging** by storing ladders **flat or in a suitable holder**.
- **Wooden ladders:** Store in a **cool, well-ventilated area**, away from moisture or excessive heat.
- **Damaged, worn, or broken ladders must be destroyed** to prevent unsafe reuse.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY REGULATIONS BASED ON THE DUTCH WARENWET (PRODUCT SAFETY LAW)

✓ Follow **manufacturer's instructions** and check if the climbing equipment meets:

- **NEN 2484** (for professional use).
- **NEN-EN 131** (for consumer use).

✓ **Do not modify or repair ladders** without the manufacturer's approval.

✓ Ensure ladders are **only used by trained personnel** familiar with **safe usage guidelines**.

✓ **Do not use a ladder for longer than 30 minutes consecutively** for intensive tasks.

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✓ **By following these guidelines, you can prevent accidents and ensure safe and efficient use of portable climbing equipment!** 🚧