No.40 – Telescopic Ladders

Description

There have recently been two incidents involving Telescopic Ladders.

In both cases the incident involved ladders that had not been locked correctly either due to a fault with the ladder or human error. Therefore we have made changes to the Ladder Checklist F222a to avoid such incidents in future.

Important Lessons

It should be noted that telescopic ladders do eventually become stiff after regular use mainly from dust or debris. Once they are in this condition they must not be used because the locking mechanism becomes compromised.

The lessons learnt from these incidents have been included in the updated ladder checklist F222a which should now be used on all ladder users. The specific checks for telescopic ladders include a check for lock stiffness.

Also whilst carrying out the monthly inspection on a telescopic ladder, the checklist now requires that the user cleans each telescopic section according to the manufacturer’s guidance. This will increase the life of the ladder and avoid their becoming stiff and unsafe.

There are several different types of locking mechanism in use on telescopic ladders owned by Mouchel. The pictures below show two of these. In each case whilst checking the locking mechanism of your ladder you will need to refer to the Manufacturer’s Instructions to ensure that they are still functioning correctly, as described in the updated Ladder Checklist.
Lever Locking Mechanism

For further guidance please contact your SHE Advisor

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Individuals/Groups Affected – All Staff

Switch Locking Mechanism