



# ASK AN RSA

*With Elyse Taylor, Vancouver Island*

*In this monthly feature, we invite readers to submit a question for a BCCSA Regional Safety Advisor (RSA) to address. This month's RSA is Elyse Taylor, who serves Vancouver Island.*

## **Question:**

Can work be performed safely and in compliance with WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation while using a ladder?

## **Answer:**

It depends on the task, duration, and site conditions. The employer must complete a risk assessment to decide whether the work can be done safely from a ladder or if scaffolding or another work platform is required.

## **Key Considerations**

### **Identify and Assess the Risks:**

- Review the tasks and consider ladder stability when handling tools and materials.
- Check ground conditions and potential fall hazards.
- Decide if the work qualifies as short-duration or light-duty.
- Consider the worker's required movements and whether another platform would be safer or more efficient.
- Watch for other site operations that could affect ladder safety, such as vehicles, pedestrians, or door openings.

### **Assess Control Measures:**

- Develop task-specific procedures, including fall protection and rescue needs.
- Follow fall protection plan requirements for work at 25 ft. (7.5 m) or higher.
- Ensure all workers are trained and competent.
- Use ladder stability aids where possible.
- Use scaffolding, pump jacks, ladder jacks, or elevated work platforms (EWPs) if ladders are not safe or practical.

## **Bottom Line:**

Safe use of ladders depends on the environment, the task, and the equipment. Employers must complete a risk assessment, choose the safest method, and ensure workers are trained and competent.

**Resources:**

- [OHS Regulation Part 13: Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms | WorkSafeBC](#)
- [OHS Guidelines Part 11: Fall Protection-Other Acceptable Procedures | WorkSafeBC](#)
- [Risk Assessment Checklist for Ladder Safety | WorkSafeBC](#)
- [Scaffolding Safety Checklist | WorkSafeBC](#)

**Need help?**

A Regional Safety Advisor is available at no cost to advise you.

Contact us at: [rsa@bccsa.ca](mailto:rsa@bccsa.ca) or [Regional Safety Advisors](#).