

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH395 Oyster Point Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Wing C
South San Francisco, CA 94080-1913ADDRESS REPLY TO:
P.O. BOX 603
San Francisco, CA 94101

June 13, 1991

Mr. James D. Yundt
President
Roofmaster Products Company
P.O. Box 63309
Los Angeles, California 90083-0309

Subject: Ladder Master and Lite Lift Hoisting Wheels

Dear Mr. Yundt:

The Division Staff is in receipt of your letter dated May 23, 1991, with attachments addressed to Richard Drew, District Manager of our Ventura office. Apparently there has been some question as to the acceptability of the subject devices being supported by portable ladders based on Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (T8CCR), Section 3279, Portable Metal Ladders (d)(10) which reads as follows:

- (10) Improper use. Ladders shall not be used as a brace, skid, guy or gin pole, gangway, or for other uses than that for which they were intended, unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

Both of the subject devices consist of pulleys attached to metal frames which are designed to hook over two successive rungs of a portable ladder. By running ropes over the pulleys, the devices can then be used to hoist materials from level to level. The capacity of the devices is limited by the strength of the ladder they are used with, much the same as the ladder jacks described in T8CCR, Section 1648 and the American National Standards (ANSI) A14.1-1981 and A14.2-1982 for portable wood and metal ladders. ANSI A10.8-1988 on construction scaffolding also has requirements for ladder jacks.

All of these standards specify that the bearing area on each of the two rungs must be a minimum length of ten (10) inches. The ladders used must be rated extra-heavy-duty (type 1A) or heavy-duty (type 1) with the load not exceeding one (1) workman per jack. The use of medium (Type II) or light (Type III) duty ladders is not permitted with ladder jacks.

In your letter to Richard Drew you rated the subject devices at 150 pounds based on their similarity to ladder jacks. This seems reasonable to Staff. You also stated that similar hoisting devices have been used since the late 1940's. This is probably true, and to the Division's knowledge, the devices have not been related to any significant accident occurrences.

Based on the foregoing, it is Staff's opinion that the use of the ladder mounted hoisting wheels described as the "Ladder Master" and the "Lite Lift", manufactured by Roofmaster Products is acceptable, providing the following is complied with:

1. Loads are limited to a maximum of 150 pounds.
2. The device shall bear on at least two rungs, with a bearing length on each rung of not less than 10 inches.
3. Only extra-heavy-duty (type 1A) or heavy-duty (type 1) ladders, in good condition, are used with the devices.
4. All other manufacturer's recommendations are adhered to.

Labels should be affixed to the devices warning users of the foregoing precaution and any other precautions deemed necessary by the manufacturer.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Staff Senior Safety Engineer Ray A. Rooth at (71) 939-8615.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Ciofalo, Ph.D.
Deputy Chief

rar/FRC/mm

cc: Safety Staff

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