

ANSI Certification & OSHA Compliance are two different things!

ANSI (American National Standards Institute) sets structural and stability standards for ladder manufacturing, and provides the certification requirements. OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health) however, sets standards for workplace safety: including the proper utilization of ladders. OSHA requires ladders to be ANSI certified, but more importantly, OSHA requires that ladders are utilized in a safe manner. An ANSI certified ladder is an OSHA violation when used improperly.

Many helicopter maintenance tasks are OSHA violations when conventional ladders are used:



These ANSI certified ladders are OSHA violations when used with helicopters!

The ladders in the above pictures are all ANSI certified, but the method of use are OSHA violations. Picture #1 is an obvious violation (standing on the top rung), but using a taller ladder, as in #2 and #3, is not a solution, as it creates a new violation (overreaching) which decreases the stability of the ladder. The violation is not the fault of the mechanic! It is the employer's responsibility to provide proper work stands for the tasks that they *require* their employees to perform. Failure to do so puts technicians at risk of injury, and subjects the employer to OSHA violation fines. In the unfortunate event of a ladder related injury, the employer can be held liable for negligence.

On a corresponding note: *Flight Safety* is dependent upon the workmanship of the aircraft maintenance team. Technicians cannot give full attention to *maintenance tasks*, if excessive attention is being applied to *maintaining their balance*. When doing so, the likelihood of making an error is increased. The FAA is finally acknowledging that OSHA violations can impact flight safety, and is now actively evaluating such during safety audits.

Fortunately, the self-evident problems (**ANSI approved in design, but not OSHA compliant in usage**) of conventional ladders have finally been resolved with the MX5+. Unlike conventional ladders, HeliLadders were *specifically designed for aircraft maintenance* and are OSHA compliant in countless applications where conventional ladders are not. They also meet and exceed the most recent ANSI 14.2 standards issued in 2017.