

## TMS 02-98

### Standard Practice for Treestand Labels

#### 1. Scope

- 1.1 This practice provides guidance for providing user labels on treestands. For changes to this practice since the last issue, refer to the Summary of Changes section at the end of the standard.
- 1.2 The values stated are in English units.
- 1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

#### 2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards:*
  - 2.1.1 F-1749 Specification for Fitness Equipment and Fitness Facility Safety Signage and labels.
- 2.2 *Federal Standards:*
- 2.3 *Manufacturing Standards:* Treestand Manufacturing Standard TMS 03.

#### 3. Terminology

- 3.1 The terminology and definitions in the referenced documents are applicable to this practice.
- 3.2 *Definitions:*
  - 3.2.1 *Non-climbing, fixed position or hang-on treestand*—a treestand which is secured to the tree at the elevation where it is used. (The user usually ascends the tree by some means and then lifts the treestand to the desired position and secures it for use.)
  - 3.2.2 *Climbing treestand*—a treestand which provides both the means to ascend the tree, and allow the user to remain at a desired elevation.
  - 3.2.3 *Handclimber, or climbing aid*— a device to assist climbing with a climbing treestand. A structure that allows the user to support his weight when lifting a climbing treestand with his legs.
  - 3.2.4 *Backbar*— the adjustable component of a climbing treestand or and climber, which engages the tree to provide support.
  - 3.2.5 *Ladder treestand*— a treestand which is secured to the tree at the elevation where the platform is located. (The ladder treestand may be secured to the tree at other locations and has steps that are used to reach the platform or hunting position).
  - 3.2.6 *Tripod or Tower treestand*— a tripod or tower treestand is constructed to be self-supporting and is not required to be secured to a tree.
  - 3.2.7 *A Climbing Stick*— a device to assist climbing a tree primarily to a fixed position treestand. A structure that is secured to the tree and allows the user to support his weight and climb to the desired height on the tree.
  - 3.2.8 *Platform*—the horizontal structural area of a treestand on which the user stands and/or places his feet.
  - 3.2.9 *Treestand*— a device designed to be affixed to a tree or its branches so as to permit an individual to sit or stand thereon for the purpose of attaining an elevated position from which to observe, photograph or hunt.

#### 4. Summary of Practice

- 4.1 This practice provides guidelines for the selection and placement of user labels and warnings on treestands and climbing sticks particularly for quality assurance and

adequacy of safety including:

- 4.1.1 Use of instructions in anticipation of user error or misuse.
- 4.1.2 Rated load capacity in accordance with manufacturers rating.
- 4.1.3 Availability of instructions in case of their loss.
- 4.1.4 Placement of labels and warnings.
- 4.1.5 Types of labels.
- 4.1.6 Special labels and warnings.

## 5. Significance and Use

- 5.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for use, selection, location placement and content of user labels on treestands and climbing sticks, particularly with regard to quality assurance and safety.
- 5.2 It is emphasized that the use of these practices will not alter the validity of data determined with specific tests, but provides guidance in the interpretation of test results (valid or invalid) and guidance in the selection of a reasonable general provision in those instances where no standard exists today.

## 6. Procedure

- 6.1 It is recommended that manufacturers follow the methods of labeling in Specification F 1749 and so described herein. When unusual or special conditions require labels or warning methods not covered herein, the manufacturer shall be responsible for their development to assure adequate information for the user.
  - 6.2 All labels and warnings shall be clearly understandable, legible, in English, of a size consistent with the space available to be marked, and able to withstand reasonable exposure to the elements.
- 6.3 Selection of Placement**
- 6.3.1 Labels and warnings shall be placed such that they are visible to the user when mounting the treestand or climbing stick and when it is in use (sitting or standing). The following placement locations are recommended for individual units and situations:
    - 6.3.1.1 The top (upper) side of the platform as given in 3.2.8.
    - 6.3.1.2 Along the top (upper) side of the backbar as given in 3.2.4.
    - 6.3.1.3 Along the top (upper) side of a flat surface on a main structural support member.
    - 6.3.1.4 On the top (upper) portion of a component requiring a special label or warning.
- 6.4 Selection of Type of Label or Warning**
- 6.4.1 All materials used shall be able to withstand reasonable exposure to the elements.
    - 6.4.1.1 For direct mark use, it shall be with permanent ink or paint, engraved, stamped, embossed, etched or other permanent means.
    - 6.4.1.2 For tagging (nameplates, stickers, etc.), the tag shall be secured by mechanical means or by adhesives suitable to withstand reasonable exposure to the elements. Adhesives shall be resistant to peel off.
    - 6.4.1.3 Labels and/or lettering shall be highly visible by use of the signal word "WARNING" with black letters on orange background.
- 6.5 Label Content**
- 6.5.1 The minimum information that shall be provided on a treestand label is as follows:
    - 6.5.1.1 The warning label must contain the signal word "WARNING" and be preceded with or follow the words "failure to follow all warnings listed could result in serious injury or death".
    - 6.5.1.2 The label must contain a phrase that warns to not to use without Full Body Harness (Fall Arrest System) that meets TMA standards.
    - 6.5.1.3 The label must contain a phrase that warns to not to use before reading instructions or read instructions before use.
    - 6.5.1.4 The label must state the rated load capacity or weight limit of the treestand.

- 6.5.1.5 The label must contain the manufacturers name and address or name and telephone number.
- 6.5.1.6 Any specific safety information pertinent to a particular model should be printed on the label.
- 6.5.2 Other information that should be helpful to the user as a label, but could be contained in the instructions is recommended. Example phrases are: "do not modify this product" and "proper maintenance and inspection is required"

**7. Keywords**

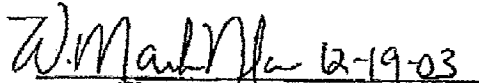
- 7.1 backbar; climbing aid; climbing stick; platform; treestand; tripod

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This section identifies the location of principle changes to this standard that have been incorporated since its last issue. Changes or additions are underlined on the section reference number.

Revision B – Sections 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.7 and 7.1.1 added.

Revision C - Section 2.1.1 and 3.2.9 added, Section 6 revised and renumbered, new Section 7 added.

  
 (Signature and date) 12-19-03

President,  
Treestand Manufacturers Association

  
 (Signature and date) 12-22-03

Secretary,  
Treestand Manufacturers Association