

TMS 03-98

Standard Practice for Treestand Safety Devices

1. Scope

- 1.1 This practice provides guidance for providing user safety devices 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:*
- 2.2 *Federal Standards:*
- 2.3 *Manufacturing Standards:* Treestand Manufacturing Standards TMS 02 and 04.

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 handclimber, 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 *Integral seat*---a treestand seat which is attached to the base (where the user stands) platform.

4. Summary of Practice

- 4.1 This practice provides guidelines for the selection, availability and placement of user safety devices on treestands particularly for quality assurance and adequacy of auxiliary safety including:

- 4.1.1 Use of instructions in anticipation of user error or misuse.
- 4.1.2 Availability of instructions in case of their loss.
- 4.1.3 User fall protection (safety belts or harnesses).
- 4.1.4 Inter-connects (two piece units).
- 4.1.5 Auxiliary security.

5. Significance and Use

- 5.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for availability, use, and selection of safety devices 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. General Provisions

- 6.1 It is recommended that manufacturers follow the methods of safety provisions so described herein. When unusual or special conditions require auxiliary safety devices, means or methods not covered herein, the manufacturer shall be responsible for their development to assure adequate availability for the user.

7. Selection of Safety Devices


- 7.1 User instructions shall be supplied with each individual unit and shall be in accordance with the Standard Practice as given in TMS 04.
 - 7.1.1 Instructions shall contain detailed information on the proper set up, use and safety precautions for the unit.
- 7.2 Labels and warnings shall be placed on the unit in accordance with the Standard Practice as given in TMS 02.
 - 7.2.1 Notice of availability of instructions will be identified on the unit as a part of required label information as given in 7.2.
- 7.3 A fall protection device, such as a safety belt or harness, shall be provided with each treestand as standard equipment. The type of fall protection device is an option of the manufacturer.
 - 7.3.1 The fall protection device shall have provision to be secured to the tree which the user climbs. It shall be so constructed that the user is able to adjust and minimize the free-fall length in case of a safety belt or harness.
 - 7.3.2 In the case of climbing treestands, the features of the fall protection device shall include allowing the user to have it secured while in the process of climbing the tree.
- 7.4 Two-piece climbing treestands (those without integral seats) specifically, those involving a 'stand-up/sit-down' mode of ascending or descending a tree, shall include a flexible inter-connecting device to secure the upper and lower pieces together and prevent them from separating.
 - 7.4.1 A cable, rope, strap or other similar interconnecting means, shall be configured such that it will not encumber the user while climbing while prohibiting the lower part from falling if the lower part were to become disengaged from the user.
 - 7.4.2 The use of a device to secure the upper piece (seat) whenever the user removes the load (standing) is highly recommended. An elastic cord, rope, strap, etc. should be an integral component of the upper piece and its use explained in the unit instructions.
- 7.5 Auxiliary safety devices shall be provided where additional safety precautions can be made to further protect the user. Examples include: anti-slip platform surfaces, backbar locking devices or tie-offs (for climbing treestands, use of

- handclimbers for locking means, balance bars, etc).
- 7.5.1 For special cases or non-typical units, specific safety devices shall be provided where applicable.

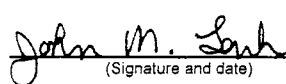
SUMMARY OF CHANGES

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 and 3.2.7 added.

 4-19-00
(Signature and date)

President,
Treestand Manufacturers Association

 4/14/00
(Signature and date)

Secretary,
Treestand Manufacturers Association