

## TMS 04-98

### Standard Practice for Treestand Instructions

#### 1. Scope

- 1.1 This practice provides guidance for providing user instructions for 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 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 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.

#### 4. Summary of Practice

- 4.1 This practice provides guidelines for the selection, content and placement of user instructions for treestands particularly for quality assurance and adequacy of safety.

## 5. Significance and Use

- 5.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for selection, content and placement of user instructions for treestands, 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 developing instructions so described herein. When unusual or special conditions require instructions or information not covered herein, the manufacturer shall be responsible for their development to assure adequate information for the user.
- 6.2 All user instructions shall be clearly understandable, in English, and included with each unit.

## 7. Selection of Content

- 7.1 Initial, basic instructions shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - 7.1.1 The manufacturers name and address.
  - 7.1.2 The unit model identification.
  - 7.1.3 The unit weight limit.
  - 7.1.4 Notification to read instructions before use and that failure to do so could result in injury or death.
  - 7.1.5 A warning to use fall protection such as a safety belt or harness.
  - 7.1.5 Cautions on use during inclement weather and on trees of questionable integrity.
  - 7.1.6 A warning not to use if the user has consumed alcohol or drugs.
  - 7.1.8 A clear caution, notification or warning of any particular or special condition of assembly, adjustment or use of the unit that would not be reasonable and/or obvious to an inexperienced person.
  - 7.1.9 A clear caution notification or warning of any particular or special condition of assembly, adjustment or use of the unit that would not be reasonable and/or obvious to an inexperienced person.
- 7.2 The instructions shall include information on the method of attaching the treestand to the tree. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.
  - 7.2.1 The minimum (and maximum, where applicable) tree diameter for proper use shall be specified.
  - 7.2.2 A procedure for adjusting the unit to fit a given tree shall be specified. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.
- 7.3 For climbing treestands, the instructions shall include information about the method to use in climbing or descending the tree. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.
  - 7.3.1 A notation shall be made in this section of the instructions that the user should use a fall protection device, such as a safety belt or harness, and a handclimber or climbing aid while climbing or descending.
  - 7.3.2 Foot placement and foot harness adjustment instructions (where applicable) shall be included within this section.
- 7.4 Instruction shall be given to inform the user of details specific to the unit such as, but not limited to, the following:
  - 7.4.1 For units with integral seats, the method and/or adjustments required to erect the seat (where applicable).
  - 7.4.2 For units with a balance bar, arm rest, gun rest, etc., the method and/or

- adjustments required to erect same (where applicable).
- 7.4.3 For two piece units (without integral seats) such as 'stand-up/sit-down' treestands notification shall be given to secure the upper and lower pieces together with a flexible device such as a rope, strap, etc. to eliminate inadvertent separation while in use.
- 7.5 Instructions shall include information on the proper care and maintenance of the unit. Information shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- 7.5.1 Periodic inspection for defects from damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.
- 7.5.1.1 Notice shall be given that periodic inspection is required and not to use the unit if damage is detected or suspected.
- 7.5.1.2 Minor maintenance that the manufacturer deems reasonably appropriate for users should be recommended. Examples include, but are not limited to: re-tightening or replacement of hardware (specified and supplied by the manufacturer), replacement of rope, straps, cords, etc. (specified and supplied by the manufacturer), preserving or refinishing wood, touch-up painting, lubrication, etc.
- 7.5.2 Storage and/or any conditions the unit should not be subjected to.

#### 8. Additional Content

- 8.1 It is recommended that additional instructions be given as follows:
- 8.1.1 Information on the method of securing applicable attachments.
- 8.1.2 Information (not given above) about applicable user adjustments.
- 8.1.3 Aids or helpful hints that are not obvious to the inexperienced user.

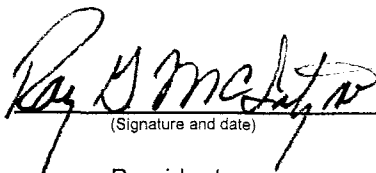
#### 9. Placement

- 9.1 Instructions shall be included with each unit. It is recommended that (where applicable) the instructions be attached to the unit or placed within a part of the unit.

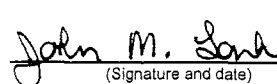
### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

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