

From BGV D36 to BGI 694

The previous German accident prevention regulation BGV D36 was replaced in 2008 by BGI 694 – “Handling instructions for the use of ladders and steps”. It can be downloaded from the homepage of „Verband Deutscher Leiter- und Fahrgerüsterhersteller“ (VDL) at www.vd-leitern.de.

This catalogue also takes account of the technical information relating to the new distinction between “reach heights” and “working heights”.

What size is required?

When selecting the size/length of ladder, it should be ensured that

- leaning ladders which are not additionally secured are only used up to the fourth highest step/rung as otherwise there is a danger of the ladder slipping away,
- double-sided freestanding ladders are only used up to the third highest step/rung so that sufficient hold is possible,
- combination ladders used in the „freestanding ladder with mounted extension ladder” position are only used up to the fifth highest rung,
- the size of freestanding ladders with a platform is selected in such a way that the user can reach the maximum required working height from the platform without stretching.

For better understanding and clarity, these differences are described here again:

Reach height: BGI 694 defines the reach height as the height which can be reached from a calculated standing height – according to the type of ladder. This is approximately 2.00 m above the standing height.

Working height: Working height refers to the range for working at body height, e.g. with a drill. To take account of the working heights of different industries, an average working height of 1.50 m above standing height is assumed in this catalogue.

This definition gives rise to a simplified formula: *
Standing height + 1.50 m = Working height
Standing height + 2.00 m = Reach height

* This may vary depending on the type of ladder. Please observe the information in the technical tables in this catalogue.

Illustration of working height and reach height

based on a freestanding tread ladder with a platform and a double-sided freestanding ladder

