STEPS TO SELECTING A LADDER:

1. Determine what the task involves and select the ladder that satisfies all of the job requirements.

2. Always make sure the height or extension of the ladder is appropriate for the job to be performed without standing on the top two steps.

3. Ensure the chosen ladder fulfills all safety requirements and has a CSA or UL approval label which defined its intended use.

4. The decision to use a Type I (industrial) or Type II (commercial) ladder is affected by the type of work to be completed and the load capacity (weight limits) of the ladder.

5. Ensure the selected ladder is protected against all substances that are found in the work area that could cause damage or deterioration.

6. For electrical tasks, select only non-conducting ladders, e.g. a fiberglass ladder.

*Ladders must always be inspected before each use.*

GUIDELINES TO INSPECTING A LADDER:

- Ensure rails are not flawed in any way (cracked, twisted, missing, worn, sharp edges, etc.).

- Ensure the braces are not damaged or detached.

- All steps and/or rungs must be securely in place and not possess sharp or damaged edges.

- Treads must not be smooth, coated with materials or corroded.

- All metal parts, including screws, nails, bolts and hinges, should not be damaged or corroded and must be firmly in place.

- All the ladder surfaces must be smooth and not be splintery.

- The ladder’s feet should be non-slip and not be worn or damaged.

- Identification label must be clearly marked on the ladder.

- Make sure that when the ladder is extended, the locks are securely fastened.

- With fixed ladders, ensure that the mounts are not worn or damaged.

If any of the defects listed are present, the ladder should not be used:

- Label the ladder “DEFECTIVE” and remove it from service immediately.

- NEVER make temporary repairs.

- NEVER attempt to straighten crooked ladder parts.