



# Standard Specification for Trestands, Climbing Sticks, and Tripod or Tower Stands<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3249; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers requirements for trestands, climbing sticks, and tripod/tower stands that are used for hunting, photographing, or general observation. Furthermore, this specification establishes minimum warning and package labeling, instructional content, safety device requirements, and physical testing parameters. This is a performance based specification and is not intended to restrict design.

1.2 Partial utilization of this specification is prohibited. Any statement of compliance with this specification shall be a certification that the product tested meets all of the requirements of the specification in its entirety. A product that fails to meet any one of the requirements of this specification is considered to have failed this specification and shall not be sold with any indication that it meets parts of the specification.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[F2123 Practice for Trestand Instructions](#)

[F2125 Test Method for Trestand Static Stability and Adherence](#)

[F2126 Test Method for Trestand Static Load Capacity](#)

[F2128 Test Method for Trestand Repetitive Loading Capability](#)

[F2275 Practice for Trestand Manufacturer Quality Assurance Program](#)

[F2337 Test Method for Trestand Fall Arrest System](#)

[F2531 Test Method for Load Capacity of Trestand Seats](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *backbar, n*—adjustable component of a climbing trestand that engages the tree to provide support. The backbar may be rigid or flexible.

3.1.2 *climbing belt, n*—a strap/belt or similar device which is fastened about the person in a manner so as to contain the torso and stabilize the user's horizontal load while either working from a vertical position to attach trestands, climbing devices, and so forth, or during ascent/descent of tree or ladder. A FBH may be constructed to additionally serve this function.

3.1.3 *corner stability, n*—the ability of a trestand to resist eccentricity, twisting, or sudden movement when load is applied separately to each of the four corners of a foot platform.

3.1.4 *fall arrest system, n*—system that is assembled for the purpose of arresting an accidental fall of its user. A FAS consists of a full body harness, lanyard, anchorage means, connecting hardware, climbing belt (for fixed position stands), and suspension relief device.

3.1.5 *foot platform, n*—horizontal structural area of a trestand on which the user stands and/or places his feet.

3.1.6 *full body harness (FBH), n*—component with a design of straps that is fastened about the person in a manner so as to contain the torso and distribute the fall arrest forces over at least the upper thighs, pelvis, chest, and shoulders, with means for attaching it to other components or subsystems.

3.1.7 *integral seat, n*—a seat which is attached to the footplatform and is necessary to the completeness of the product.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.18 on Trestands.

Current edition approved April 1, 2020. Published May 2020. Originally approved in 2017. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as F3249 – 17. DOI: 10.1520/F3249-20.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.1.8 *multiple user rated capacity (MUR), n*—the maximum load capacity, not to be exceeded, of a treestand, tripod or tower stand as determined by the manufacturer for simultaneous multiple users.

3.1.9 *non-integral seat, n*—a seat which is independent of the foot platform and can be slid forward or backwards during normal use. An example would be a mesh, sling, or similar material.

3.1.10 *side stability, n*—the ability of a climbing treestand (top section – Type II/III) to resist eccentricity, twisting, or sudden movement when load is applied to the left and right front corners of the section. In terms of tripod and tower stands the ability to resist toppling when the center edge spanning each of the supports is loaded.

3.1.11 *single user rated capacity (SUR), n*—the maximum load capacity, not to be exceeded, of a treestand, climbing stick, tripod, or tower stand as determined by the manufacturer for a single user.

3.1.12 *suspension relief device, n*—device to allow relief of a person’s weight on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness or allow the user to descend to the ground. The device is to help maintain circulation in the legs and help prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling).

3.1.13 *treestand, n*—device designed to be affixed to a tree 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.

3.1.14 *user, n*—the consumer or end user of the manufactured product.

#### 4. Classification

4.1 *Ladder treestand*—A treestand that is secured to the tree at the elevation where the platform is located. The ladder treestand has steps that are used to reach the platform or hunting position. The ladder or steps is an integral part of the product.

4.2 *Non-climbing, fixed position or hang-on treestand*—A treestand that 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.)

4.3 *Climbing stick – continuous*—A device or aide to assist climbing a tree primarily to a fixed position treestand. A continuous interconnected ladder that is secured to the tree and allows the user to support his weight and climb to the desired height on the tree.

4.4 *Climbing stick – sectional*—A device or aide to assist climbing a tree primarily to a fixed position treestand. Consists of multiple independent ladder sections that are secured to the tree and allow the user to support his weight and climb to the desired height on the tree.

4.5 *Tripod or tower stand*—Tripod or tower stand is constructed to be self-supporting and is not required to be secured to a tree.

4.6 *Climbing treestand – (hand climber) - Type I*—A treestand that provides both the means to ascend and descend the tree and allow the user to remain at a desired elevation. It consists of a top section and a foot platform, which are independent of one another. The user’s arms are used to support and transfer their weight to the top section when ascending or descending.

4.7 *Climbing treestand – (sit/stand) - Type II*—A treestand that provides both the means to ascend and descend the tree and allow the user to remain at a desired elevation. It consists of a top section and a foot platform, which are independent of one another. The user sits on the extended structure of the top section, opposite the seat, when ascending or descending.

4.8 *Climbing treestand – (sit/stand) - Type III*—A treestand that provides both the means to ascend and descend the tree and allow the user to remain at a desired elevation. It consists of a top section and a foot platform, which are independent of one another. The user sits on the seat of the top section when ascending or descending.

#### 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The manufacturer shall have a quality assurance program in place that meets the requirements of Practice [F2275](#).

#### 6. General Requirements

6.1 *Instructions*—User instructions shall be supplied with each individual unit and shall be in accordance with Practice [F2123](#). Instructions shall contain detailed information on the proper set up, use, and safety precautions for the unit. In addition to model specific written instructions a non-model specific Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) or other digital media equivalent shall be provided to the user with each treestand. The intent of which is to address the topics outlined in Practice [F2123](#) as well as provide visual instruction for proper use and safety precautions when using treestands.

6.2 *Fall Arrest System*—A fall arrest system that meets Test Method [F2337](#) shall be provided for each user as standard equipment with a Ladder, Fixed Position (Hang-on), or Climbing Treestand. The fall arrest system capacity shall not be less than the single user rated load capacity of the treestand. For multiple occupancy Ladder treestands a fall arrest system would be provided for each user.

6.2.1 Fall arrest systems for Fixed Position (Hang-on) treestands shall include a climbing belt.

6.2.2 Instructions on the proper use, warnings, and securing the harness to the tree shall be provided either separately or as part of the treestand instructions.

##### 6.3 Auxiliary Safety Devices:

6.3.1 Ladder treestands shall include means to stabilize the ladder from pivoting about the ladder axis and secure it to the tree prior to use. Crisscrossing rope, straps, or other methods to secure the ladder treestand to the tree to prevent pivoting prior to climbing are examples of such means. Instructions shall include proper installation and use.

6.3.2 Ladder treestands, tripod/tower stands, and continuous climbing sticks shall include means to secure all ladder