



Briefing 14/09 February 2014

## Working at Height Guide

To: all contacts

### Key issues

New HSE 'Working at Height' guide issued

Falls from height remain one of the biggest causes of fatalities and major injuries

### 1. Introduction

HSE have recently produced a new guide to working at height. Falls from height are still a major concern for all employers and they must remain aware of their responsibilities and what they need to do in order to minimise risks for those having to work at height.

It states that following this guidance is normally enough to comply with the Working at Height Regulations 2005. The guide defines working from height as 'work in any place where, if there were no precautions in place, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury. For example, you are working at height if you:

- are working on a ladder or a flat roof;
- could fall through a fragile surface;
- could fall into an opening in a floor or a hole in the ground.

The document can be read [here](#).

### 2. Contents

The guide highlights

- how regulations are to be complied with
- how to decide if someone is competent to work at height
- the measures needed to protect people
- the most common accidents when working at height
- considerations for planning working at height
- selecting the right equipment for the job
- ensuring equipment is in good condition
- legal duties for employees and
- refers to the role of architects and building designers

### 3. APSE Comment

Health and safety compliance is a significant issue for all providing public services with the sector often leading the way in good practice. There are financial, cultural and reputation benefits in ensuring employees remain safe with the threat of HSE charges for visits and other action in the event of an accident.

This guide should be used as a source of information for all with health and safety responsibilities (both health and safety officers and line managers/supervisors) and provided to employees to ensure they remain familiar with the basic practicalities involved with working at height.

It can also be used as a prompt for health and safety officers to review their policies and procedures.

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