This document applies to all work at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury. It has been prepared to control the risk of falls, falling objects and collapse of all work places and is particularly aimed at scaffolds, working platforms, Bosun's chairs and abseiling, the use of safety nets and safety harnesses and ladders.

The requirements for the control of scaffolding and working at heights are contained in the Work at Heights Regulation 2005 and relevant British Standards and Codes of Practice, National Access and Scaffolding Confederation Current TG20 for Technical Guidance

Site and depot management shall take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that procedures are in place, and effectively controlled, to prevent persons from falling.

The recognised mandatory hierarchy of steps that shall be taken to reduce the risk of falls from height is:-

* **Avoid work at height where possible**. (where construction or assembly of components etc. can be done at ground level, or on a secure floor or platform with no risk of fall, this shall be done in preference to work at height).
* **Use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where work at height cannot be avoided.** (In practice this means fully guarded scaffolding, mobile elevating work platforms and/or guardrails and toe boards at work locations etc).
* **Where the risk of falls cannot be eliminated, provide work equipment or other measures to minimise the distance and consequences of a fall should one occur.** (In practice this means such measures as netting, safety harnesses, rope access, Bosun’s chair and/or airbags or similar. Note: the use of airbags is not recommended as a safety measure. Also, where these types of measures are used, with the exception of nets, Company requirements are that they are used as **fall prevention only**, (referred to as work restraint in the regulations) and **not fall arrest**. Where there is a need for fall arrest measures the approval of the safety dept. shall be obtained and the method of work agreed).

Wherever it is possible to provide safe working platforms, powered access platforms, fully guarded locations etc, these shall always be provided in preference to other means of access or working at height. The risk assessment approach must be followed taking into account the hierarchy listed above.

Work at height shall be properly planned, organised and supervised. Depending on the nature and level of risk, this will usually require the production of a risk assessment and method statement. The details of these shall be conveyed to the applicable operatives via toolbox talks and a record maintained. Risk assessments and method statement for work at height should address the following factors:-

* Weather conditions likely to affect work at height
* Training and competence of persons required for work at height
* The place, position or situation where work at height is to be carried out
* Equipment for work at height is appropriate and inspected.
* The risk from fragile surfaces are properly assessed and controlled.
* The risks from falling objects are properly controlled.
* Arrangements are in place for emergencies.
* A safe means of access and egress is provided.

**Inspections**

Inspections for any work at height equipment or devices shall be recorded in a site register.

For inspections of scaffolding, towers, ladders and mobile elevated work platforms refer to specific guidance

Where fall prevention and fall arrest equipment depends on how it is installed or assembled, it shall not be used for the first time until it has been inspected in its’ position and a record kept.

Where existing guardrails, parapets or barriers etc are to be used as fall protection, they shall be inspected for suitability prior to them being used and routinely inspected as follows.

All the above shall be inspected prior to first use, after damage, alteration or repair, or other conditions that could cause deterioration, and in any event weekly.