

ISG WORK AT HEIGHT STANDARD



We choose safe



We choose health

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THE USE OF LADDERS IS NOT ALLOWED / BANNED



EQUIPMENT ALLOWED TO BE USED FOR WORK AT HEIGHT



See page 6

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ISG Work at Height Standard

Definitions

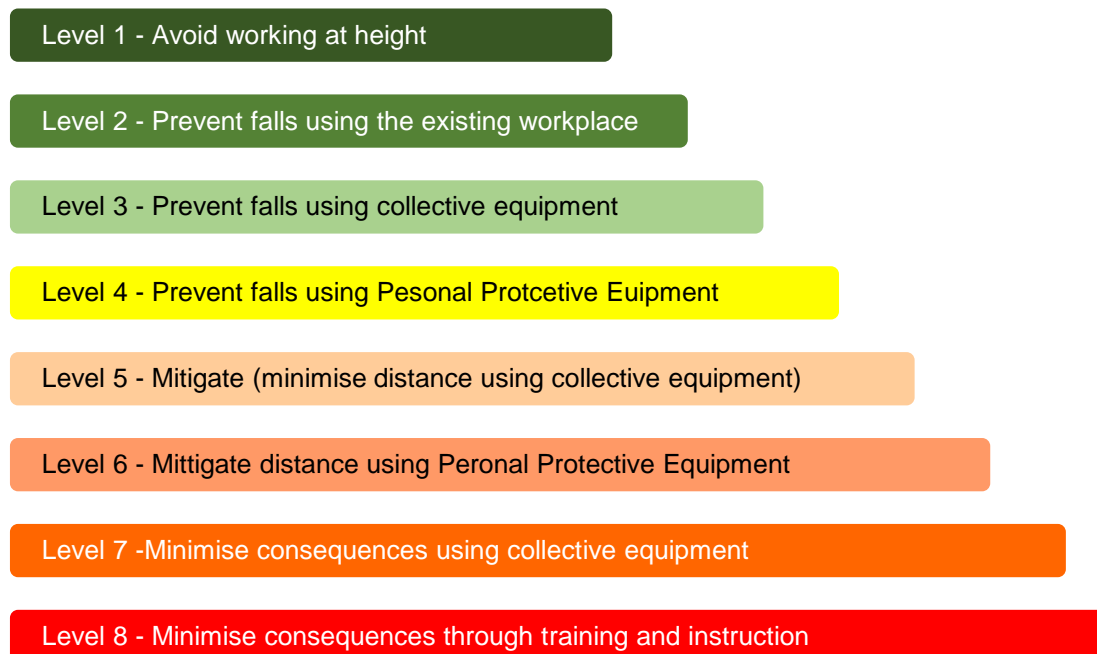
- Legal Definition:** The Work at Height Regulation defines work at height as 'A place is considered at height if a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level'.
- Work includes moving around at a place of work but not travel to or from a place of work i.e. via a staircase.
- ISG Definition:** Working at any height above ground level, at ground level or below ground level where a fall could result in injury.
- Guidance Note:** If there is a different height between two levels, there could be a potential work at height hazard. If a person is adjacent to a height differential, either above ground, below ground or at the same level, they are considered working at height, regardless of the height, regardless of local requirements i.e. outside the UK. ISG will always operate to the highest standard i.e. ISG / UK standards or local country standards if higher than the UK.

Work at ground level, adjacent to an open edge (i.e. excavation, trench, unfinished floor etc.) is considered work at height, because if a person were to fall into the excavation etc., an injury would occur. Ground level can include floors inside a building.

Working at Height is essential in the fit out and construction Industry. It needs not be a hazardous activity if planned correctly and carried out by competent and trained individuals.

Planning Work at Height

Whenever work at height is proposed, it must be adequately planned, and risk assessed before any work commences. At all times consideration, must be given to the hierarchy of controls as set out below



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Level 1: Avoid Working at Height

The underlying principle of the Work at Height Regulations is that working at height should be avoided wherever possible. This essentially means doing as much work as possible from the ground, using extending tools instead of a ladder, or lowering something to ground level before repairing it. Avoiding work at height also means avoiding work on fragile surfaces, which may be enclosed, but still liable to cause a fall through them rather than off them.

Level 2: Prevent Falls Using the Existing Workplace

If working at height can't be avoided, prevention is better than mitigating the consequences of a fall. Prevention starts by using an existing safe place to carry out work where possible – that is, somewhere where additional protective equipment isn't necessary and there is no risk of falling because preventative measures are already in place, such as on a balcony or parapet, or on machinery that has fixed guard rails to prevent falls.

Level 3: Prevent Falls Using Collective Equipment

When you don't already have a safe place to work from, such as when you're assembling or disassembling scaffolding, the next level involves preventing falls by using collective equipment. This means protecting everyone who's potentially at risk using equipment such as external advance guardrails or collective protection units.

Level 4: Prevent Falls Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The final step towards preventing a fall is the use of personal protective equipment. This could include equipment such as belts with short lanyards, which restrict the worker's movement to the extent that a fall isn't possible.

Level 5: Mitigate (Minimise Distance Using Collective Equipment)

The hierarchy of control measures now moves on to focus on mitigation, stating that those with a duty of care must minimise the potential consequences of a fall by placing netting or airbags beneath the work area, and close to it, thereby reducing the distance the worker could fall.

Level 6: Mitigate Distance Using PPE

Personal protective equipment should be worn so that if the worker does fall, the distance they fall will be minimal. In work areas involving scaffolding, this is typically done using fall arrest harnesses. However, these can still result in serious injury, and they aren't effective at lower heights (bear in mind that most fatal falls are from heights of 4m or less).

Nor are harnesses suitable for every situation either; for example, safety guidelines for tunnel workers suggest that workers remain unrestrained when working at height under these circumstances.

Level 7: Minimise Consequences Using Collective Equipment

This level on the hierarchy of measures again refers to the use of netting or airbags, only this time it's advising their use not to reduce the distance of a fall, but to soften its impact. This means that under this hierarchy level, it's placed at a lower level relative to the ground.

Level 8: Minimise Consequences Through Training & Instruction

This final level involves minimising the risk of a fall by providing sufficient training and instruction before the work itself is carried out. In other words, it means educating workers to ensure the correct assembly of appropriate safety measures and the application of best practice guidelines for carrying out the work at height, ensuring that it can be carried out as safely as possible.

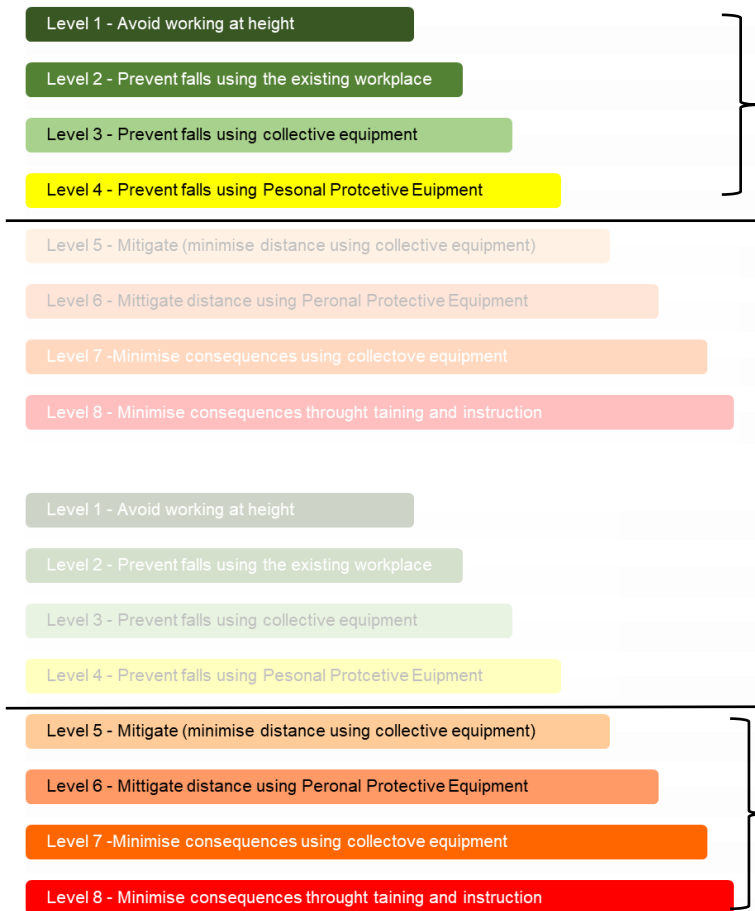
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Avoid Work at Height

Whenever possible work at height should be avoided, or if not practicable, then kept to the minimum. With effective work planning the need to work at height can be minimised or completely avoided. Consideration needs to be given to designing out the need to work at height or planning work to involve pre-assembling components on the ground or off site.

Preventing Falls of Persons:

Whenever work at height is planned, and it is not possible to avoid, priority must be given to PREVENTING falls of persons before fall mitigation measures can be considered.



Preventing Falls of Persons:

Only when you cannot fulfil the requirements from the top of the hierarchy can you consider using the measures outlined in the level below.

Note: Priority **must** be given to 'collective measures' i.e. measures that protect a number of persons (e.g. scaffolding with handrails and toe-boards etc.) rather than measures that just protect individuals

Contractors and ISG staff **MUST** be able to demonstrate why the 1st 4 elements in this hierarchy are not practicable before other (lower down) controls are to be considered

Control Measures taken from the lower 4 levels of the hierarchy are only acceptable when all other preventative measures are impracticable.

Note: These controls should only be used as a last resort as they introduce the possibility of a fall. The distance and consequences of the fall is minimised using equipment and PPE. Contractors wishing to use these controls must justify their decision. If these controls are chosen, a rescue plan will be required

The Use of Ladders

According to ISG standards the use of step ladders and straight ladders is forbidden. They will only be used on occasions when no other access equipment can be used. Ladders will only be used after a Ladder Permit has been issued by ISG project management, who has visited the workplace and verified that no other access equipment can be used.

Whenever a ladder is used, 3 points of contact **MUST** be maintained always.

Note: Ladder permits will be issued daily following an assessment of the area by the ISG manager. Under no circumstances will Ladder Permit duration exceed 1 working day.

Ladder Control: All ladders not being used under an ISG Permit regime must be secured, so unauthorised use is prevented.

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ISG Approved Access Solutions



Support certified access solutions

**OVER
6,0 m**



Podiums, scissor lifts and scaffolds must be certified. Scaffold tag to be used on scaffolds – Depending of task

**UP TO
8,0 m**



Podiums, scissor lifts and scaffolds must be certified. Scaffold tag to be used on scaffolds – Depending of task

**UP TO
4,5 m**



PowerTower working platforms - Depending of task

**UP TO
3,5 m**



MAX WORKING HEIGHT - Podiums and scaffolds must be certified. Scaffold tag to be used on scaffolds

**UP TO
3,5 m**



ACCORDING TO ISG STANDARDS THE USE OF STEP AND STRAIGHT LADDERS IS FORBIDDEN.
 They will only be used on occasions when no other access equipment can be used and only after a LADDER PERMIT has been issued by ISG Project Management who has visited the workplace and verified that no other access equipment can be used.
LADDER PERMIT will be issued on a DAILY BASSIS and the DURATION EXPIRES after 1 WORKING DAY

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