

Fall Arrest & Restraint Buying Guide

Managing and Selecting Equipment

The work at height regulations 2005 requires employer's to do all that is reasonably practicable to prevent anyone falling.

Employer's and those in control of any working at height activities, must ensure work is properly planned and supervised. This includes using the correct type of equipment for working at height

Low risk tasks that are relatively straight forward will be less challenging, when it comes to planning. Employers and those in control must assess the risks first before carrying out any work.

Employer's must:

- Take a sensible, practical approach when considering equipment for work at height
- Factors to weigh up include: The height of the task, the duration and frequency and the condition of the surface being worked on.

There will also be certain low-risk situations where common sense tells you no particular precautions are necessary.

How Do You Select The Right Equipment?

When selecting equipment for work at height, employers must:

- Provide the most suitable equipment appropriate for the work
- Take account of factors such as the working conditions, the nature, frequency and duration of the work

If you are unsure which type of equipment to use, once you have considered the risks, please contact our sales team who will be happy to help.

How To Make Sure The Equipment Is In Good Condition?

Work equipment, for example scaffolding, needs to be assembled or installed according to the manufacturers' instructions and in keeping with the industry guidelines.

Where the safety of the work equipment depends on how it has been installed or assembled, an employer should ensure it is not used until it has been inspected in that position by a competent person. A competent person is someone who has the necessary skills, experienced and knowledge to manage health and safety.

Inspections should be carried out every time something happens that may affect the safety and stability of the equipment, E.g adverse weather.

Training

Working at height is one of the most hazardous environments you can find yourself in. The Fall Protection and Rescue equipment needed to ensure safe working can be confusing, leading to either mis-specification or misuse of product. Under the Work at Height Regulations 2005, anyone working at height is required to be trained in the use and daily inspection of their fall protection equipment, as well as work at height safety procedures and rescue.

With the help of our preferred suppliers, we offer a full range of fall protection and rescue training and consulting. Training can be provided in either open enrolment format or company-specific site courses, to suit your needs. Please contact us for more details and to discuss your specific requirements.

Fall from height remains one of the most common causes of serious injury and death in the industry today. This fact, coupled with tightening regulations governing working at height, results in a greater need to consider how to protect those exposed to potential injury from a fall.