

WORKING AT HEIGHT Regulations 2005

Application and definition

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 came into force on 6 April 2005. The Regulations define work at height as work in any place, including a place at or below ground level or obtaining access or egress from such place while at work, except by a staircase in a permanent workplace where, if measures required by the Regulations were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury.

Planning and supervision of work at height

Work must be properly planned and appropriately supervised. It must not be carried out at height where it is reasonably practicable to carry out the work in a safer way. Reasonable measures must be taken to prevent any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury. In some instances, such as clearing gutters or routine maintenance of parapets and roofs, the installation of fall arrest systems may be necessary.

Use of ladders

Schedule 6 of the Regulations states that ladders may only be used for work at height if a risk assessment under regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations has demonstrated that the use of more suitable work equipment is not justified because of the low risk and short duration of use, or existing features on site which cannot be altered

Ladders must be placed on firm surfaces to provide supports so that the rungs remain horizontal. They should be positioned to ensure stability during use.

Portable ladders must be prevented from slipping by securing the stiles, at or near, their upper or lower ends by using an effective anti-slip or other effective stability device, or any other arrangement of equivalent effectiveness.

Ladders for access must be long enough to protrude sufficiently above the place of landing to which they provide access, unless other measures have been taken to ensure a firm handhold

Further Information: www.hse.gov.uk
www.churchcare.co.uk