

Safety on Site



DUFFY GROUP LTD

February 2009

LADDER SAFETY

Recent inspections have shown a worrying trend in the use of ladders on some of our sites. Below is a summary of the golden rules when a risk assessment of a task shows that a ladder is the only option for working at height: (This does not include fixed ladders used for access).

Ladders should be

- ◆ Issued by a supervisor in charge of an area;
- ◆ Secured when not in use;
- ◆ Checked before use;
- ◆ In one position for a maximum of 30 minutes;
- ◆ Footed and lashed when in position before the task takes place.

It can only be used:

- ◆ For tasks that have been risk assessed to ensure no

other form of working at height is more suitable;

- ◆ Where a handhold is available on the ladder or stepladder;
- ◆ Where the operative can maintain three points of contact (hands and feet) at the working position;
- ◆ Where the ground is level, stable and firm.

People should only use a ladder if:

- ◆ They are competent;
- ◆ The ladder is long enough—the person on the ladder should not use the top three rungs;
- ◆ The ladder rungs are level. This can be judged by the naked eye. Ladders can be leveled using specially designed devices but not by using bits of brick or whatever else is at hand;

- ◆ The weather is suitable - do not use them in strong or gusting winds (follow the manufacturer's safe working practices);
- ◆ They are wearing robust, sensible footwear (eg safety shoes/boots or trainers).
- ◆ Shoes should not have the soles hanging off, have long or dangling laces, or be thick with mud or other slippery contaminants;
- ◆ They make sure they are returned to the charge hand after use for securing;
- ◆ They are fit
- ◆ They know how to tie a ladder or stepladder properly.

Ensuring that these measures are in place will give greater control of the use of ladders and minimize the risk of any incident occurring when ladders are being used.



MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS

The HSE has carried out a first week of targeted inspections checking on the management of asbestos.

A total of 151 visits resulted in 33 asbestos-related improvement notices and two asbestos-related prohibition notices. Many of those dying from asbestos related disease have worked in the building trades at some time during their working lives.

Those responsible for repair or renovation of non-domestic buildings such as owners, occupiers or contractors are required to take a number of key actions including:

reasonable steps to find any asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and assess condition;

presume materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence to the contrary;

record location and condition of ACMs and assess the risk;

prepare and implement a plan to manage those risks;

give information on the ACMs to anyone liable to disturb;

monitor the condition of ACMs left in place;

review the assessment of risk.

Reportable incidents

Group-wide
Dec 08/Jan 09

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Safety Inspection

Ratings

Top ranked site:

Northwood 92%

Group Average 85.9%

In Brief

◆ Flailing concrete pumping hose causes death on construction site

UCS Civils Ltd has been ordered to pay over £70k whilst Pochin Concrete Pumping Ltd are required to pay over £85k following a fatal incident in December 2003. A group of employees were pouring concrete to form an office building floor when the suspended pumping hose "whipped" fatally injuring one of the men.

HSE inspector Rob Cooper said: "The precautions that should have been adopted were as simple as to ensure that no-one stood close to the end of the flexible delivery hose until concrete was flowing smoothly from it - something which would have not added any significant cost or time to the work."

◆ Man crushed by cherry picker

A construction worker has died on the site of a new Lidl store in Stevenston, Scotland. He may have been trapped between the basket of a cherry picker and a fixed structure. He died on 30th January. HSE and Strathclyde Police are investigating the death