

Work at Height Risk Assessment

Risk assessment for a task at height: can it be avoided, how falls are prevented, access equipment, fragile surfaces, falling objects, rescue and scored hazards.

1. Details

The work, the place and who is assessing it.

Project

Filled in from the project in SiteSurvey.

Customer

Site *

Site address

Date of assessment *

Assessor

What is the task? *

Where exactly?

Height of the work (m)

How long will it take, and how often is it done?

Number of people

2. Avoid, prevent, minimise

Work down the order: avoid first, then prevent falls, then limit how far and how hard.

Can the work be done safely without working at height?

For example from the ground with long-reach tools, or by assembling at ground level.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable: Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 6. Work must not be carried out at height where it is reasonably practicable to carry it out safely another way.

How will the work be reached? (choose one)

- ☐ An existing safe place, with permanent guardrails
- ☐ Scaffold
- ☐ Mobile tower
- ☐ MEWP or scissor lift
- ☐ Podium steps
- ☐ Ladder or stepladder
- ☐ Roof with edge protection
- ☐ Rope access
- ☐ Other: _____

Why is that the right choice for this job?

What stops a fall, or limits it? (choose one)

- ☐ Guardrails or other protection for everyone
- ☐ Personal restraint or fall arrest
- ☐ Nets or airbags
- ☐ Nothing beyond the equipment itself

Anchor points and who checked them (if applicable)

If applicable: Protection that covers everyone, such as guardrails, comes before protection that relies on each person, such as a harness. Record why guardrails are not practicable.

Will anyone be on a ladder for more than 30 minutes at a time? (if applicable)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable: HSE guidance is that if a task needs a ladder or stepladder for more than 30 minutes at a time, other equipment should be considered.

Has the scaffold or tower been inspected in the last 7 days? (if applicable)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable: A working platform used for construction work, from which a person could fall 2 metres or more, must not be used unless it has been inspected in that position within the previous 7 days. Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 12.

3. Surfaces, objects and rescue

What is underfoot, what could fall and how someone would be brought down.

Is any roof or surface in the work area fragile? (choose one)

- ☐ No: confirmed by a competent person ☐ Yes ☐ Not confirmed

If applicable: HSE says all roofs should be treated as fragile until a competent person has confirmed they are not. Fragile rooflights are a particular hazard: some are hard to see and others may be hidden by paint.

Covers, barriers or staging to be used (if applicable)

What stops tools and materials falling on people below? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Toe boards
- ☐ Brick guards or netting
- ☐ Tool lanyards
- ☐ Exclusion zone below
- ☐ Covered walkway
- ☐ Nothing needed
- ☐ Other: _____

Weather that would stop the work

Are the people doing the work trained and competent for this equipment?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

How would someone be rescued after a fall?

Who, with what equipment, and how quickly.

Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 4. Work at height must be properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out as safely as is reasonably practicable. Planning includes emergencies and rescue.

4. Hazards and scores

One entry for each hazard that remains.

Hazards (copy this block for each one)

Hazard *

Who could be harmed, and how?

Controls in place

Likelihood of harm with these controls (choose one)

- ☐ 1. Very unlikely
- ☐ 2. Unlikely
- ☐ 3. Possible
- ☐ 4. Likely
- ☐ 5. Almost certain

Severity of the harm (choose one)

- ☐ 1. Minor injury, no time off
- ☐ 2. Injury needing first aid
- ☐ 3. Injury needing time off work
- ☐ 4. Major injury
- ☐ 5. Death

Risk score (if applicable; worked out automatically in the app)

Risk (if applicable; worked out automatically in the app)

Further action, who and by when (if applicable)

Photos (photos: attach, or note the file names)

Hazards recorded (worked out automatically in the app)

Highest score (worked out automatically in the app)

Likelihood times severity: 1 to 4 is Low, 5 to 12 is Medium and 15 to 25 is High. Scoring is a common way to rank hazards, but it is not required by law and the bands are this form's own.

5. Briefing, review and sign-off

Tell the people doing the work, and set a review.

Have the people doing the work been briefed on this assessment?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Review date

Review it sooner if the work, the place, the equipment or the people change, or after an incident or near miss.

Assessor name

Assessor signature

Manager or supervisor name

Manager or supervisor signature