

## **Reducing falls from vehicles Case Study WPT17**

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This case study is part of a series, the example shows how a purpose built unloading system, a well trained workforce and good risk management are reducing the possibility of falls from vehicles during the unloading of large pre cast concrete sections.

### **The challenge.**

**In June 2009 Kier Build Ltd were awarded a large contract to build Featherstone 2, a category B prison in Staffordshire. The prison design includes three 480 place accommodation blocks plus service and administrative facilities. Appointed by Kier Build as design and build partners PCE Limited needed to develop a safe system for unloading 16,000 pre cast concrete sections, the wall sections weighing upwards of 12 tonnes each, all had to be unloaded from flat bed lorries by crawler crane.**

### **The solution**

**PCE Limited had identified this problem earlier in 2008 and had used various systems for other contracts. They had analysed the various unloading systems that were available on the market, and decided that due to the size and weight of the sections involved none of the current unloading systems were suitable. PCE decided to design a system that would meet all of their requirements for all their contracts, it is available for hire to other contractors who are unloading any flat open back delivery vehicles.**

**It took six months to design, build and test Slingsafe, a unique double boom safety platform specifically for unloading/loading loads delivered on flatbed trailers where an operative needs to access the delivery vehicle to unload it.**



**Key safety features include,**

**Fail safe dual harness system**

**Constant vertical alignment of harnesses reduce the risk of the equipment not deploying.**

**Unhindered movement for operatives**

**Easily re-locatable around the site**

**Safe and dry storage box for shackles/chains on working platform.**



**The results**

**The Slingsafe system provides fall mitigation when unloading large pre cast sections or any other loads that have to be delivered on open back vehicles, it can be installed and dismantled in less than an hour.**

**The fail safe dual harness system gives workers a hands free unhindered environment for slinging loads, at the same time implementing a safe system of work.**

**The platform which is equipped with guardrails and a gate to access the bed of the vehicle can be adjusted to match the height of the delivery vehicle.**

**Slingsafe, although designed for unloading heavy sections on large sites, may have many other applications.**

**For further product information contact PCE Limited.**