## Preventing falls down internal voids

### Manager
1. Plan the work to minimise the number of edges and opening
2. Set standards of robust protection
3. Recognise the risk if an opening is exposed, even if only for minutes
4. Inspect the safety measures regularly to maintain protection
5. Confirm that safety precautions are in place before work starts

### Worker
1. Check voids are protected – report defects
2. Always seek authorisation and advice before removing edge protection
3. Take steps to protect yourself and others from falls, even for short duration work
4. Stay alert to the risk

### Planning - Prioritising decisions and managing risks
1. It is often necessary to create internal voids in building under construction and refurbishment work. Planning ahead to anticipate when these voids will constitute a risk to workers is essential. Here are some key principles:
   1. Use mesh guards or covers which are permanently fixed into concrete floors – these provide protection to all workers throughout the job.
   2. Protect voids from underneath – using fixed scaffold
   3. Where coverings on the floor are used these must be robust, securely fixed and signed
   4. If you carry out short duration works around the void, provide alternative protection, eg scaffold underneath

Only use harnesses and lanyards for work restraint as a last resort – consider others working nearby who may not be wearing a harness, create an exclusion zone to keep them away.
I confirm that I have briefed these people on the Key points of the HSE Step3 guidance note on behaviours that can prevent accidents

Signed off by

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**Record your Site Briefing Here**

Who has been briefed

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**Concerns Raised At The Briefing**

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**Changes implemented or actions planned**

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**SLAM**

**STOP** work if you find yourself in danger - this is your right in Law

**Look** around you before taking any action, is anybody else at risk

**Assess** the situation, take a few minutes to think through the actions you should take to put things right

**Manage** the risks as the job goes on, anticipate and control risk before the problem emerges

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