



The Editor
RAIL
Bretton Court
Bretton
Peterborough
PE3 8DZ

26 April 2005

Dear Sir

Further to Jeff Deacon's email ("Open Access" – *RAIL* 13 April) about the need for written risk assessments before ladders are used at work, I'd like to point out that the risk assessment does not always have to be written down, especially for simple, routine tasks.

Falls from height are the biggest killer of people at work and falls from ladders are the primary cause of injuries, accounting for 13 deaths and 1200 major injuries each year.

Employers need to take falls from height seriously. Those following good practice now should be doing enough to comply with the new Work at Height Regulations, which are aimed at ensuring safe work at height and the prevention of falls.

For those unfamiliar with the regulations, HSE has published a brief guide which is on its website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg401.pdf>

Yours faithfully

Ian Greenwood
Falls from Height Programme Team Leader