

Fit Out Campaign

October 2005

The Health and Safety Executive will be conducting a national inspection campaign targeted towards the management of Working at Height (WaH) and Good Order during Fit Out in October 2005. What will HSE's Construction Inspectors be looking for during the campaign?

Working at Height

- Principal Contractors have arrangements to ensure that the work on their sites is effectively managed.
- Contractor competence is checked and their work is monitored.
- Contractors have undertaken a risk assessment for work at height to select the right equipment following the WaH hierarchy* and ensure the equipment is being used properly.
- Users of equipment are competent, equipment has been correctly installed/assembled, inspected and maintained as appropriate.

There is a range of solutions that can be adapted to most situations. If working from ladders or steps is chosen, it needs to be justified.

*WaH hierarchy of control measures:

1. Avoid working at height if possible
2. Use an existing safe place of work
3. Provide work equipment to prevent falls
4. Mitigate distance and consequences of a fall
5. Give instruction and training and/or other means.

For the above, collective protective measures (such as scaffolding) must be prioritised over personal protection (such as using a fall arrest harness).

Good Order

- Ground conditions are kept reasonable so that both traffic and pedestrian routes are firm and even.
- Traffic routes are segregated from pedestrian routes and kept clear of obstructions.
- Delivery, unloading, handling and removal of equipment/materials/waste are planned with adequate storage areas.
- Good housekeeping to include clear pedestrian routes and stairways that are free from trailing cables, debris, and other trip hazards.
- Workplaces are clear of unnecessary obstructions and waste material is cleared up promptly.
- Holes and excavations are adequately protected.

