

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.

➤ Record your Site Briefing Here

Who has been briefed

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 _____

➤ Concerns Raised At The Briefing

➤ Changes implemented or actions planned

➤ 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