



FALLS – PREVENTION OF

Persons falling from height account for more than 50% of the fatal and serious accidents in the construction industry. The law requires us to take appropriate measures to prevent such accidents. The principal measures to be taken are as follows. Any defect in protective measures or any system of work should be reported at once.

Scaffolds

1. Guard-rails and toe-boards at edges which persons could fall more than 2m must be fitted. Ladders must properly secured.
2. Decking close-boarded with no trap ends.
3. Holes for access as small as practicable.
4. Access to incomplete scaffolding barred and prohibited.

Floor Edges

1. Guard-rails and toe-boards or similar at all edges, including at lift shafts, stairwells and duct openings, must be suitably guarded.

Holes in Floors and Roofs

1. Holes through which persons could fall must have guard-rails and toe-boards or be provided with a suitable cover which must be securely in position and marked to indicate its purpose. Even though covers over holes must be sufficient to bear a person's weight, it is unwise to stand or walk on them.



Roofs

1. Protection against falls must be provided at all open edges.
2. If a roof is of fragile material, e.g. asbestos cement sheet or glass, crawling boards must be used.
3. Where roofs contain fragile panels or skylights, these too must be guarded or securely covered.



Excavations

1. These must be securely fenced where persons could fall more than 2m, unless battered to a safe angle.
2. Spoil may act as a barrier on one side if continuous and of appropriate height.
3. Access and egress must be by a suitable ladder which is securely fixed - no climbing the shoring.
4. Vehicles tipping must use stop blocks.
5. Where access is required across an excavation, a proper bridge must be provided, close-boarded and with guardrails and toe boards - single planks must not be used.

Manholes, Gullies, etc

1. Where permanent covers have not been positioned, strong and secure temporary covers must be provided.
2. Where vehicles might pass the covers must be able to withstand the weight.

Open joisting

1. Open joists through which persons could fall must be securely covered to a sufficient extent to afford safe access and foothold.



False work/Formwork

1. A system of work must be followed which ensures that while false-work and formwork is being erected, no person can fall a distance of more than 2m.
2. Where persons work on false work decking, all edges, including the leading edge, must be protected.

Removal of Protection

1. Should it be necessary for covers or other protection to be removed in order to do your work consult your supervisor first and always replace the protection as soon as you have finished.
2. Temporary covers must always be made secure. The same applies should it be necessary for you to leave the work before it is finished