



WORK AT HEIGHT REGULATIONS 2025

Index

Regulation	Page
1 Title	3
2 Commencement	3
3 Interpretation.....	3
4 Application	5
5 Organisation and planning	6
6 Competence	6
7 Avoidance of risks from work at height.....	7
8 Selection of work equipment for work at height.....	7
9 Requirements for particular work equipment.....	8
10 Dock operations	9
11 Fragile surfaces.....	9
12 Falling objects.....	10
13 Danger areas.....	10
14 Inspection of work equipment.....	10
15 Inspection of places of work at height	12
16 Duties of persons at work.....	12
17 Special provision in relation to caving and climbing	12
18 Exemption by the Department.....	13
19 Exemption for the armed forces	14
SCHEDULE 1	15
REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING PLACES OF WORK AND MEANS OF ACCESS OR EGRESS AT HEIGHT	15
SCHEDULE 2	17
REQUIREMENTS FOR GUARD-RAILS, TOE-BOARDS, BARRIERS AND SIMILAR COLLECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTION	17
SCHEDULE 3	19
REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING PLATFORMS	19

SCHEDULE 4	23
REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE SAFEGUARDS FOR ARRESTING FALLS	23
SCHEDULE 5	25
REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	25
SCHEDULE 6	29
REQUIREMENTS FOR LADDERS	29
SCHEDULE 7	31
PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN A REPORT OF INSPECTION	31
SCHEDULE 8	33
REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK IN DOCKS	33

Statutory Document No. 20XX/XXXX

*Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*

WORK AT HEIGHT REGULATIONS 2025

*Approved by Tynwald:**Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 2*

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture makes the following Regulations, after consulting such organisations as it considers represent the interests affected by the Regulations¹, under sections 15(1), (2), (3)(a), (5)(b), (6)(a) and 82(3)(a) of, and paragraphs 1(1), (2) and (3), 9, 11, 14, 15(1) and 16 of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (of Parliament) as those provisions apply to the Island².

1 Title

These Regulations are the Work at Height Regulations 2025.

2 Commencement

If approved by Tynwald, these Regulations come into operation on 1 October 2026³.

3 Interpretation

SI2005/735/2 [and drafting]

(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“**the 1974 Act**” means the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, as it applies to the Island;

“**access**” and “**egress**” include ascent and descent;

“**construction work**” has the meaning given by regulation 3(1) (interpretation) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2025⁴;

“**dock gate**” has the meaning given in Schedule 8;

¹ As required by section 82(4) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 as it applies to the Island.

² 1974 c.37: applied to the Island by virtue of SD 2024/0073.

³ Tynwald approval is required under section 82(5) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (of Parliament) as it applies to the Island.

⁴ SD 2025/XXXX.

“dock operations” has the meaning given in Schedule 8;

“fragile surface” means a surface which would be liable to fail if any reasonably foreseeable loading were to be applied to it;

“ladder” includes a fixed ladder and a stepladder;

“line” includes rope, chain or webbing;

“the Management Regulations” means the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 2003⁵;

“personal fall protection system” means —

- (a) a fall prevention, work restraint, work positioning, fall arrest or rescue system, other than a system in which the only safeguards are collective safeguards; or
- (b) rope access and positioning techniques;

“suitable” means suitable in any respect which it is reasonably foreseeable will affect the safety of any person;

“work at height” means —

- (a) work in any place, including a place at or below ground level;
- (b) obtaining access to or egress from such place while at work, except by a staircase in a permanent workplace,

where, if measures required by these Regulations were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury;

“work equipment” means any machinery, appliance, apparatus, tool or installation for use at work (whether exclusively or not) and includes anything to which regulation 9 (requirements for particular work equipment) and Schedules 2 to 6 apply; and

“working platform” —

- (a) means any platform used as a place of work or as a means of access to or egress from a place of work; and
 - (b) includes any scaffold, suspended scaffold, cradle, mobile platform, trestle, gangway, gantry and stairway which is used.
- (2) Any reference in these Regulations to the keeping of a report or copy of a report or plan includes reference to it being kept in a form —
- (a) in which it is capable of being reproduced as a printed copy when required; and
 - (b) which is secure from loss or unauthorised interference.

⁵ SD 877/03.

4 Application

SI2005/735/3 [and drafting]

- (1) These Regulations apply —
 - (a) to the Island, excluding the territorial sea; and
 - (b) to the territorial sea as sections 1 to 53 and 80 to 82 of the 1974 Act apply by virtue of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application to the Territorial Sea) Order 2025⁶.
- (2) The requirements imposed by these Regulations on an employer apply in relation to work —
 - (a) by an employee of the employer; or
 - (b) by any other person under the control of the employer, to the extent of the employer's control.
- (3) The requirements imposed by these Regulations on an employer also apply to —
 - (a) a relevant self-employed person, in relation to work —
 - (i) by that relevant self-employed person; or
 - (ii) by a person under the control of that relevant self-employed person, to the extent of that relevant self-employed persons control; and
 - (b) any person other than a self-employed person or relevant self-employed person, in relation to work by a person under his or her control, to the extent of his or her control.
- (4) The following regulations do not apply to or in relation to —
 - (a) the master and crew of a ship, or to the employer of such persons, in respect of the normal ship-board activities of a ship's crew which —
 - (i) are carried out solely by the crew under the direction of the master; and
 - (ii) are not liable to expose persons at work other than the master and crew to a risk to their safety;
 - (b) a place specified in paragraph 1 of Schedule 8, where persons are engaged in fish loading processes.
- (5) Regulation 13 (danger areas) does not apply to an installation while regulation 12 (additional requirements) of the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1997⁷ applies to it.
- (6) In this regulation —

⁶ SD 2025/xxx.

⁷ SD 168/97.

- (a) “**installation**” has the meaning given by regulation 2(1) (interpretation) of the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1997;
- (b) “**relevant self-employed person**” means a self-employed person who conducts an undertaking of a prescribed description for the purposes of section 3(2) (general duties of employers and self-employed to persons other than their employees) of the 1974 Act; and
- (c) “**ship**” includes every description of vessel used in navigation, other than a ship which forms part of His Majesty’s Navy.

5 Organisation and planning

SI2005/735/4 [and drafting]

- (1) Every employer must ensure that work at height is —
 - (a) properly planned;
 - (b) appropriately supervised; and
 - (c) carried out in a manner which is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe,and that its planning includes the selection of work equipment in accordance with regulation 8 (selection of work equipment for work at height).
- (2) Reference in paragraph (1) to planning of work includes planning for emergencies and rescue.
- (3) Every employer must ensure that work at height is carried out only when the weather conditions do not jeopardise the health or safety of persons involved in the work.
- (4) Paragraph (3) does not apply where members of the police, fire, ambulance or other emergency services are acting in an emergency.

6 Competence

SI2005/735/5 [and drafting]

Every employer must ensure that no person engages in any activity, including organisation, planning and supervision, in relation to —

- (a) work at height; or
- (b) work equipment for use in work at height,

unless that person is competent to do so or, if being trained, is being supervised by a competent person.

7 Avoidance of risks from work at height

SI2005/735/6 [and drafting]

- (1) In identifying the measures required by this regulation, every employer must take account of a risk assessment under regulation 3 (risk assessment) of the Management Regulations.
- (2) Every employer must ensure that work is not carried out at height where it is reasonably practicable to carry out the work safely otherwise than at height.
- (3) Where work is carried out at height, every employer must take suitable and sufficient measures to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury.
- (4) The measures required by paragraph (3) include —
 - (a) the employer ensuring that the work is carried out —
 - (i) from an existing place of work; or
 - (ii) (in the case of obtaining access or egress) using an existing means,
which complies with Schedule 1, where it is reasonably practicable to carry it out safely and under appropriate ergonomic conditions; and
 - (b) where it is not reasonably practicable for the work to be carried out in accordance with subparagraph (a), the employer providing sufficient work equipment for preventing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a fall occurring.
- (5) Where the measures taken under paragraph (4) do not eliminate the risk of a fall occurring, every employer must —
 - (a) so far as is reasonably practicable, provide sufficient work equipment to minimise —
 - (i) the distance and consequences; or
 - (ii) where it is not reasonably practicable to minimise the distance, the consequences
of a fall; and
 - (b) without limiting paragraph (3), provide additional training and instruction or take other additional suitable and sufficient measures to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury.

8 Selection of work equipment for work at height

SI2005/735/7 [and drafting]

- (1) In selecting work equipment for use in work at height, every employer must —

- (a) give collective protection measures priority over personal protection measures; and
- (b) take account of —
 - (i) the working conditions and the risks to the safety of persons at the place where the work equipment is to be used;
 - (ii) in the case of work equipment for access and egress, the distance to be negotiated;
 - (iii) the distance and consequences of a potential fall;
 - (iv) the duration and frequency of use;
 - (v) the need for easy and timely evacuation and rescue in an emergency;
 - (vi) any additional risk posed by the use, installation or removal of that work equipment or by evacuation and rescue from it; and
 - (vii) the other provisions of these Regulations.
- (2) An employer must select work equipment for work at height which —
 - (a) has characteristics including dimensions which —
 - (i) are appropriate to the nature of the work to be performed and the foreseeable loadings; and
 - (ii) allow passage without risk; and
 - (b) is in other respects the most suitable work equipment, having regard in particular to the purposes specified in regulation 7 (avoidance of risks from work at height).

9 Requirements for particular work equipment

SI2005/735/8

Every employer must ensure that, in the case of —

- (a) a guard-rail, toe-board, barrier or similar collective means of protection, Schedule 2 is complied with;
- (b) a working platform —
 - (i) Part 1 of Schedule 3 is complied with; and
 - (ii) where scaffolding is provided, Part 2 of Schedule 3 is also complied with;
- (c) a net, airbag or other collective safeguard for arresting falls which is not part of a personal fall protection system, Schedule 4 is complied with;
- (d) a personal fall protection system, Part 1 of Schedule 5 and —
 - (i) in the case of a work positioning system, Part 2 of Schedule 5;

- (ii) in the case of rope access and positioning techniques, Part 3 of Schedule 5;
- (iii) in the case of a fall arrest system, Part 4 of Schedule 5;
- (iv) in the case of a work restraint system, Part 5 of Schedule 5, are complied with; and
- (e) a ladder, Schedule 6 is complied with.

10 Dock operations

SI2005/735/8A [and drafting]

In relation to work at height where people are engaged in dock operations, every employer must ensure that Schedule 8 is complied with.

11 Fragile surfaces

SI2005/735/9

- (1) Every employer must ensure that no person at work passes across or near, or works on, from or near, a fragile surface where it is reasonably practicable to carry out work safely and under appropriate ergonomic conditions without doing so.
- (2) Where it is not reasonably practicable to carry out work safely and under appropriate ergonomic conditions without passing across or near, or working on, from or near, a fragile surface, every employer must —
 - (a) ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that suitable and sufficient platforms, coverings, guard-rails or similar means of support or protection are provided and used so that any foreseeable loading is supported by such supports or borne by such protection;
 - (b) where a risk of a person at work falling remains despite the measures taken under paragraph (1) and subparagraph (2)(a), take suitable and sufficient measures to minimise the distances and consequences of a person's fall.
- (3) Where any person at work may pass across or near, or work on, from or near, a fragile surface, every employer must ensure that —
 - (a) prominent warning notices are so far as is reasonably practicable affixed at the approach to the place where the fragile surface is situated; or
 - (b) where that is not reasonably practicable, such persons are made aware of it by other means.
- (4) Paragraph (3) does not apply where members of the police, fire, ambulance or other emergency services are acting in an emergency.

12 Falling objects

SI2005/735/10

- (1) Where necessary to prevent injury to any person, every employer must take suitable and sufficient steps to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, the fall of any material or object.
- (2) Where it is not reasonably practicable to comply with paragraph (1), every employer must take suitable and sufficient steps to prevent any person being struck by any falling material or object which is liable to cause personal injury.
- (3) Every employer must ensure that no material or object is thrown or tipped from height in circumstances where it is liable to cause injury to any person.
- (4) Every employer must ensure that materials and objects are stored in such a way as to prevent risk to any person arising from the collapse, overturning or unintended movement of such materials or objects.

13 Danger areas

SI2005/735/11 [and drafting]

Without limiting the preceding requirements of these Regulations, every employer must ensure that —

- (a) where a workplace contains an area in which, owing to the nature of the work, there is a risk of any person at work —
 - (i) falling a distance; or
 - (ii) being struck by a falling object,which is liable to cause personal injury, the workplace is so far as is reasonably practicable equipped with devices preventing unauthorised persons from entering such area; and
- (b) such area is clearly indicated.

14 Inspection of work equipment

SI2005/735/12 [and drafting]

- (1) This regulation applies only to work equipment to which regulation 9 (requirements for particular work equipment) and Schedules 2 to 6 apply.
- (2) Every employer must ensure that, where the safety of work equipment depends on how it is installed or assembled, it is not used after installation or assembly in any position unless it has been inspected in that position.
- (3) Every employer must ensure that work equipment exposed to conditions causing deterioration which is liable to result in dangerous situations is inspected —

- (a) at suitable intervals; and
 - (b) each time that exceptional circumstances which are liable to jeopardise the safety of the work equipment have occurred,

to ensure that health and safety conditions are maintained and that any deterioration can be detected and remedied in good time.
- (4) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), every employer must ensure that a working platform —
 - (a) used for construction work; and
 - (b) from which a person could fall 2 metres or more,

is not used in any position unless it has been inspected in that position or, in the case of a mobile working platform, inspected on the site within the previous 7 days.
- (5) Every employer must ensure that no work equipment, other than lifting equipment to which the requirement in regulation 9(4) (organisation of lifting operations) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 2025⁸ (“LOLER”) applies —
 - (a) leaves the employer’s undertaking; or
 - (b) if obtained from the undertaking of another person, is used in the employer’s undertaking,

unless it is accompanied by physical evidence that the last inspection required to be carried out under this regulation has been carried out.
- (6) Every employer must ensure that the result of an inspection under this regulation is recorded and, subject to paragraph (8), kept until the next inspection under this regulation is recorded.
- (7) A person carrying out an inspection of work equipment to which paragraph (4) applies must —
 - (a) before the end of the working period within which the inspection is completed, prepare a report containing the particulars set out in Schedule 7; and
 - (b) within 24 hours of completing the inspection, provide the report or a copy of the report to the person on whose behalf the inspection was carried out.
- (8) An employer receiving a report or copy of the report under paragraph (7) must keep the report or a copy thereof —
 - (a) at the site where the inspection was carried out until the construction work is completed; and
 - (b) thereafter at an office of the employer for 3 months.

⁸ SD 2025/xxxx.

- (9) Where a thorough examination has been made of lifting equipment under regulation 10 (thorough examination and inspection) of LOLER—
 - (a) it must for the purposes of this regulation, other than paragraphs (7) and (8), be treated as an inspection of the lifting equipment; and
 - (b) the making under regulation 11 (reports and defects) of LOLER of a report of such examination must, for the purposes of paragraph (6) of this regulation, be treated as the recording of the inspection.
- (10) In this regulation “**inspection**”, subject to paragraph (9) —
 - (a) means such visual or more rigorous inspection by a competent person as is appropriate for safety purposes;
 - (b) includes any testing appropriate for those purposes, and “**inspected**” is to be construed accordingly.

15 Inspection of places of work at height

SI2005/735/13

Every employer must, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that the surface and every parapet, permanent rail or other such fall protection measure of every place of work at height are checked on each occasion before the place is used.

16 Duties of persons at work

SI2005/735/14 [and drafting]

- (1) Every person must, where working under the control of another person, report to that person any activity or defect relating to work at height which he or she knows is likely to endanger the safety of himself, herself or another person.
- (2) Every person must use any work equipment or safety device provided to that person for work at height by his or her employer, or by a person under whose control he or she works, in accordance with —
 - (a) any training in the use of the work equipment or device concerned which have been received by that person; and
 - (b) the instructions respecting that use which have been provided to that person by that employer or person in compliance with the requirements and prohibitions imposed upon that employer or person by or under the relevant statutory provisions.

17 Special provision in relation to caving and climbing

SI2005/735/14A [and drafting]

- (1) Paragraph (2) applies to work concerning the provision of instruction or leadership to one or more persons in connection with their engagement in caving or climbing by way of sport, recreation, team building or similar activities.

- (2) Where this paragraph applies, an employer, self-employed person or other person will be considered to have complied with the caving and climbing requirements (“**the relevant requirements**”) if, by alternative means to the relevant requirements, he or she maintains a level of safety in relation to the person performing the work referred to in paragraph (1) that is equivalent to the relevant requirements.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), in determining whether an equivalent level of safety is maintained, regard must be had to —
 - (a) the nature of the activity;
 - (b) any publicly available and generally accepted procedures for the activity; and
 - (c) any other relevant circumstances.
- (4) In this regulation —
 - (a) “**caving**” includes the exploration of parts of mines which are no longer worked;
 - (b) “**climbing**” means climbing, traversing, abseiling or scrambling over natural terrain or man-made structures; and
 - (c) “**the caving and climbing requirements**” means paragraph 1 in Part 3 of Schedule 5, and regulation 9(d)(ii) (rope access and positioning techniques), so far as it relates to that paragraph.

18 Exemption by the Department

SI2005/735/15 [and drafting]

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department may, by a certificate in writing, exempt —
 - (a) any person or class of persons;
 - (b) any premises or class of premises;
 - (c) any work equipment; or
 - (d) any work activity,from the requirements imposed by paragraph 3(a) and (c) of Schedule 2, and any exemption may be granted subject to conditions and to a limit of time and may be revoked at any time by a certificate in writing.
- (2) The Department must not grant any exemption unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case and in particular to —
 - (a) the conditions, if any, which it proposes to attach to the exemption; and
 - (b) any other requirements imposed by or under any enactments which apply to the case,it is satisfied that the health and safety of persons who are likely to be affected by the exemption will not be prejudiced in consequence of it.

19 Exemption for the armed forces

SI2005/735/16 [and drafting]

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department may, in the interests of national security (whether of the Island or the United Kingdom), by a certificate in writing exempt any person or class of persons from any requirement or prohibition imposed by these Regulations in respect of activities carried out in the interests of national security, and any exemption may be granted subject to conditions and may be revoked by the Department by a certificate in writing at any time.
- (2) The Department must not grant any exemption unless it is satisfied that the health and safety of the employees concerned is ensured as far as possible in the light of the objectives of these Regulations.

MADE**CLARE BARBER***Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture*

SCHEDULE 1**REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING PLACES OF WORK AND MEANS OF ACCESS
OR EGRESS AT HEIGHT**

[Regulation 7(4)(a)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 1

Every existing place of work or means of access or egress at height must —

- (a) be stable and of sufficient strength and rigidity for the purpose for which it is intended to be or is being used;
- (b) where applicable, rest on a stable, sufficiently strong surface;
- (c) be of sufficient dimensions to permit the safe passage of persons and the safe use of any plant or materials required to be used and to provide a safe working area having regard to the work to be carried out there;
- (d) possess suitable and sufficient means for preventing a fall;
- (e) possess a surface which has no gap —
 - (i) through which a person could fall;
 - (ii) through which any material or object could fall and injure a person; or
 - (iii) giving rise to other risk of injury to any person, unless measures have been taken to protect persons against such risk;
- (f) be constructed, used and maintained in such condition, as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable —
 - (i) the risk of slipping or tripping; or
 - (ii) any person being caught between it and any adjacent structure;
- (g) where it has moving parts, be prevented by appropriate devices from moving inadvertently during work at height.

SCHEDULE 2**REQUIREMENTS FOR GUARD-RAILS, TOE-BOARDS, BARRIERS AND
SIMILAR COLLECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTION**

[Regulation 9(a)]

Si2005/735/Schedule 2 [and drafting]

1. Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Schedule to means of protection is to a guard-rail, toe-board, barrier or similar collective means of protection.
2. Means of protection must —
 - (a) be of sufficient dimensions, of sufficient strength and rigidity for the purposes for which they are being used, and otherwise suitable;
 - (b) be placed, secured and used as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that they do not become accidentally displaced; and
 - (c) be placed to prevent, so far as is practicable, the fall of any person, or of any material or object, from any place of work.
3. In relation to work at height involved in construction work —
 - (a) the top guard-rail or other similar means of protection must be at least 950 millimetres above the edge from which any person is liable to fall;
 - (b) toe-boards must be suitable and sufficient to prevent the fall of any person, or any material or object, from any place of work; and
 - (c) any intermediate guard-rail or similar means of protection must be positioned so that any gap between it and other means of protection does not exceed 470 millimetres.
4. Any structure or part of a structure which —
 - (a) supports means of protection; or
 - (b) to which means of protection are attached,
must be of sufficient strength and suitable for the purpose of such support or attachment.
5.
 - (1) Subject to subparagraph (2), there must not be a lateral opening in means of protection save at a point of access to a ladder or stairway where an opening is necessary.
 - (2) Subject to subparagraph (3), means of protection must only be removed for the time and to the extent necessary to gain access or egress, or for the performance of a particular task and must be replaced as soon as practicable.

- (3) The task must not be performed while means of protection are removed unless effective compensatory safety measures are in place.

Consultation

SCHEDULE 3**REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING PLATFORMS**

[Regulation 9(b)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 3 [and drafting]

PART 1 — REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL WORKING PLATFORMS**1 Interpretation**

In this Schedule, “**supporting structure**” means any structure used for the purpose of supporting a working platform and includes any plant used for that purpose.

2 Condition of surfaces

Any surface upon which any supporting structure rests must be stable, of sufficient strength and of suitable composition safely to support the supporting structure, the working platform and any loading intended to be placed on the working platform.

3 Stability of supporting structure

Any supporting structure must —

- (a) be suitable and of sufficient strength and rigidity for the purpose for which it is being used;
- (b) in the case of a wheeled structure, be prevented by appropriate devices from moving inadvertently during work at height;
- (c) in other cases, be prevented from slipping by secure attachment to the bearing surface or to another structure, provision of an effective anti-slip device or by other means of equivalent effectiveness;
- (d) be stable while being erected, used and dismantled; and
- (e) when altered or modified, be altered or modified as to ensure that it remains stable.

4 Stability of working platforms

A working platform must —

- (a) be suitable and of sufficient strength and rigidity for the purpose for which it is being used or is intended to be used;
- (b) be erected and used as to ensure that its components do not become accidentally displaced so as to endanger any person;

- (c) when altered or modified, be altered or modified as to ensure that it remains stable; and
- (d) be dismantled in such a way as to prevent accidental displacement.

5 Safety on working platforms

A working platform must —

- (a) be of sufficient dimensions to permit the safe passage of persons, the safe use of any plant or materials required to be used and to provide a safe working area having regard to the work being carried out there;
- (b) possess a suitable surface and, in particular, be constructed so that the surface of the working platform has no gap —
 - (i) through which a person could fall;
 - (ii) through which any material or object could fall and injure a person; or
 - (iii) giving rise to other risk of injury to any person, unless measures have been taken to protect persons against such risk; and
- (c) be erected and used, and maintained in such condition, as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable —
 - (i) the risk of slipping or tripping; or
 - (ii) any person being caught between the working platform and any adjacent structure.

6 Loading

A working platform and any supporting structure must not be loaded so as to give rise to a risk of collapse or to any deformation which could affect its safe use.

PART 2 — ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCAFFOLDING

7 Additional requirements for scaffolding

Strength and stability calculations for scaffolding must be carried out unless —

- (a) a note of the calculations, covering the structural arrangements contemplated, is available; or
- (b) it is assembled in conformity with a generally recognised standard configuration.

8

Depending on the complexity of the scaffolding selected, an assembly, use and dismantling plan must be drawn up by a competent person. This may be in the form of a standard plan, supplemented by items relating to specific details of the scaffolding in question.

9

A copy of the plan, including any instructions it may contain, must be kept available for the use of persons concerned in the assembly, use, dismantling or alteration of scaffolding until it has been dismantled.

10

The dimensions, form and layout of scaffolding decks must be appropriate to the nature of the work to be performed and suitable for the loads to be carried and permit work and passage in safety.

11

While a scaffold is not available for use, including during its assembly, dismantling or alteration, it must be marked with general warning signs in accordance with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 2025⁹ and be suitably delineated by physical means preventing access to the danger zone.

12

Scaffolding may only be assembled, dismantled or significantly altered under the supervision of a competent person and by persons who have received appropriate and specific training in the operations envisaged which addresses specific risks which the operations may entail and precautions to be taken, and more particularly in —

- (a) understanding of the plan for the assembly, dismantling or alteration of the scaffolding concerned;
- (b) safety during the assembly, dismantling or alteration of the scaffolding concerned;
- (c) measures to prevent the risk of persons, materials or objects falling;
- (d) safety measures in the event of changing weather conditions which could adversely affect the safety of the scaffolding concerned;
- (e) permissible loadings;

⁹ SD 2025/xxxx.

- (f) any other risks which the assembly, dismantling or alteration of the scaffolding may entail.

Consultation

SCHEDULE 4**REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE SAFEGUARDS FOR ARRESTING FALLS**

[Regulation 9(c)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 4

1. Any reference in this Schedule to a safeguard is to a collective safeguard for arresting falls.
2. A safeguard must only be used if —
 - (a) a risk assessment has demonstrated that the work activity can, so far as is reasonably practicable, be performed safely while using it and without affecting its effectiveness;
 - (b) the use of other, safer work equipment is not reasonably practicable; and
 - (c) a sufficient number of available persons have received adequate training specific to the safeguard, including rescue procedures.
3. A safeguard must be suitable and of sufficient strength to safely arrest the fall of any person who is liable to fall.
4. A safeguard must —
 - (a) in the case of a safeguard which is designed to be attached, be securely attached to all the required anchors, and the anchors and the means of attachment must be suitable and of sufficient strength and stability for the purpose of safely supporting the foreseeable loading in arresting any fall and during any subsequent rescue;
 - (b) in the case of an airbag, landing mat or similar safeguard, be stable; and
 - (c) in the case of a safeguard which distorts in arresting a fall, afford sufficient clearance.
5. Suitable and sufficient steps must be taken to ensure, so far as practicable, that in the event of a fall by any person the safeguard does not itself cause injury to that person.

SCHEDULE 5**REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

[Regulation 9(d)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 5 [and drafting]

PART 1 – REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PERSONAL FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

1. A personal fall protection system must only be used if –
 - (a) a risk assessment has demonstrated that –
 - (i) the work can, so far as is reasonably practicable, be performed safely while using that system; and
 - (ii) the use of other, safer work equipment is not reasonably practicable; and
 - (b) the user and a sufficient number of available persons have received adequate training specific to the operations involved, including rescue procedures.
2. A personal fall protection system must—
 - (a) be suitable and of sufficient strength for the purposes for which it is being used, having regard to the work being carried out and any foreseeable loading;
 - (b) where necessary, fit the user;
 - (c) be correctly fitted;
 - (d) be designed to minimise injury to the user and, where necessary, be adjusted to prevent the user falling or slipping from it, should a fall occur; and
 - (e) be designed, installed and used as to prevent unplanned or uncontrolled movement of the user.
3. A personal fall protection system designed for use with an anchor must be securely attached to at least one anchor, and each anchor and the means of attachment must be suitable and of sufficient strength and stability for the purpose of supporting any foreseeable loading.
4. Suitable and sufficient steps must be taken to prevent any person falling or slipping from a personal fall protection system.

PART 2 – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ROPE ACCESS AND POSITIONING TECHNIQUES

A work positioning system must only be used if —

- (a) the system includes —
 - (i) a suitable backup system for preventing or arresting a fall; and
 - (ii) where a line is included as a backup system, the user is connected to it; or
- (b) where it is not reasonably practicable to comply with subparagraph (a), all practicable measures are taken to ensure that the work positioning system does not fail.

PART 3 – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ROPE ACCESS AND POSITIONING TECHNIQUES

1. Except as provided in paragraph 3, a rope access or positioning technique must only be used if —
 - (a) it involves a system comprising at least 2 separately anchored lines, of which one (“**the working line**”) is used as a means of access, egress and support and the other is the safety line;
 - (b) the user is provided with a suitable harness and is connected by it to the working line and the safety line;
 - (c) the working line is equipped with safe means of ascent and descent and has a self-locking system to prevent the user falling should the user lose control of his or her movements; and
 - (d) the safety line is equipped with a mobile fall protection system which is connected to and travels with the user of the system.
2. Taking the risk assessment into account and depending in particular on the duration of the job and the ergonomic constraints, provision must be made for a seat with appropriate accessories.
3. The system may comprise a single rope where —
 - (a) a risk assessment has demonstrated that the use of a second line would entail higher risk to persons; and
 - (b) appropriate measures have been taken to ensure safety.

PART 4 — ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FALL ARREST SYSTEMS

1. A fall arrest system must incorporate a suitable means of absorbing energy and limiting the forces applied to the user's body.
2. A fall arrest system must not be used in a manner —
 - (a) which involves the risk of a line being cut;
 - (b) where its safe use requires a clear zone (allowing for any pendulum effect), which does not afford such zone; or
 - (c) which otherwise inhibits its performance or renders its use unsafe.

PART 5 — ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

A work restraint system must —

- (a) be designed so that, if used correctly, it prevents the user from getting into a position in which a fall can occur; and
- (b) be used correctly.

SCHEDULE 6**REQUIREMENTS FOR LADDERS**

[Regulation 9(e)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 6

1. Every employer must ensure that a ladder is only used for work at height if a risk assessment under regulation 3 (risk assessment) of the Management Regulations has demonstrated that the use of more suitable work equipment is not justified because of the low risk and —
 - (a) the short duration of use; or
 - (b) existing features on site which the employer cannot alter.
2. Any surface upon which a ladder rests must be stable, firm, of sufficient strength and of suitable composition safely to support the ladder so that its rungs or steps remain horizontal, and any loading intended to be placed on it.
3. A ladder must be positioned so as to ensure its stability during use.
4. A suspended ladder must be attached in a secure manner and so that, with the exception of a flexible ladder, it cannot be displaced and swinging is prevented.
5. A portable ladder must be prevented from slipping during use by —
 - (a) securing the stiles at or near their upper or lower ends;
 - (b) an effective anti-slip or other effective stability device; or
 - (c) any other arrangement of equivalent effectiveness.
6. A ladder used for access must be long enough to protrude sufficiently above the place of landing to which it provides access, unless other measures have been taken to ensure a firm handhold.
7. An interlocking or extension ladder must not be used unless its sections are prevented from moving relative to each other while in use.
8. A mobile ladder must be prevented from moving before it is stepped on.
9. Where a ladder or run of ladders rises a vertical distance of 9 metres or more above its base, there must, where reasonably practicable, be sufficient safe landing areas or rest platforms provided at suitable intervals.
10. Every ladder must be used in such a way that —
 - (a) a secure handhold and secure support are always available to the user; and

- (b) the user can maintain a safe handhold when carrying a load unless, in the case of a step ladder, the maintenance of a handhold is not practicable when a load is carried, and a risk assessment under regulation 3 of the Management Regulations has demonstrated that the use of a stepladder is justified because of —
 - (i) the low risk; and
 - (ii) the short duration of use.

Consultation

SCHEDULE 7**PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN A REPORT OF INSPECTION**

[Regulation 14(7)]

SI2005/735/Schedule 7

1. The name and address of the person for whom the inspection was carried out.
2. The location of the work equipment inspected.
3. A description of the work equipment inspected.
4. The date and time of the inspection.
5. Details of any matter identified that could give rise to a risk to the health or safety of any person.
6. Details of any action taken as a result of any matter identified in paragraph 5.
7. Details of any further action considered necessary.
8. The name and position of the person making the report.

SCHEDULE 8

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK IN DOCKS

[Regulation 10]

SI2005/735/Schedule 9 [and drafting]

1. In relation to work at height where people are engaged in dock operations, there must be secure and adequate guard-rails at the following places —

- (a) every break, dangerous corner and other dangerous part or edge of a dock, wharf, quay or jetty; and
- (b) every open side of a gangway, footway over a bridge, caisson or dock gate,

except in so far as the provision of such guard-rails is impracticable because of the nature of the work carried out there and the work is in progress.

2. In this Schedule —

“dock gate” means any lock gate or other gate which can close off the entrance to the dock or part of the dock from the sea or other waterway, but does not include any gate on land which controls access by vehicles or pedestrians;

“dock operations” means —

- (a) the loading or unloading of goods on or from a ship at dock premises;
- (b) the embarking or disembarking of passengers on or from a ship at dock premises;
- (c) any activity incidental to the activities in subparagraph (a) or (b) which takes place on dock premises, including any of the following —
 - (i) the fuelling and provisioning of a ship;
 - (ii) the mooring of a ship;
 - (iii) the storing, sorting, inspecting, checking, weighing or handling of goods;
 - (iv) the movement of goods, passengers or vehicles;
 - (v) the use of welfare amenities in relation to the activities in subparagraph (a), (b) or (c)(i) to (iv);
 - (vi) attending dock premises for the purposes of the activities in subparagraph (a), (b) or (c)(i) to (v); or
 - (vii) the embarking or disembarking on or from a ship of its crew at dock premises,

but does not include —

- (d) the loading or unloading of goods or embarking or disembarking of persons on or from a pleasure craft or any activity incidental to those activities; or
- (e) beach landing operations wholly carried out by serving members of His Majesty's Forces or visiting forces within the meaning of the provisions of Part I (visiting forces) of the Visiting Forces Act 1952 (of Parliament) or a combination of both;

“dock premises” means any dock, wharf, quay, jetty or other place at which ships load or unload goods or embark or disembark passengers, together with neighbouring land or water which is used or occupied, or intended to be used or occupied, for those or incidental activities, and any part of a ship when used for those or incidental activities;

“freight container” means a container as defined in regulation 3 (interpretation) of the Freight Containers (Safety Convention) Regulations 2026¹⁰;

“goods” includes —

- (a) animals;
- (b) pallets and freight containers;
- (c) waste;
- (d) solid ballast;
- (e) vehicles which are being transported as cargo;

“pleasure craft” means any description of vessel when used solely for sport or recreation, other than for carrying fare paying passengers;

“ship” includes all vessels and hovercraft which operate on water or land and water;

“vehicle” includes all lift trucks, locomotives and rolling-stock, and trailers and semi-trailers and other mechanical plant which moves on wheels, tracks, skids or any combination thereof;

“vessel” means any description of craft used for the transport of goods or passengers or the storage of goods or the accommodation of passengers on water, whether used in navigation or not;

“welfare amenities” means —

- (a) sanitary conveniences;
- (b) baths and shower baths;
- (c) washing facilities;
- (d) a supply of wholesome drinking water;
- (e) a supply of protective clothing, such as, clothing suitable for the protection of the wearer in refrigerated spaces or against dirt from handling dirty goods or against inclement weather;

¹⁰ SD xx/xxx.

- (f) accommodation and facilities for changing into clothing worn during working hours and for storing and drying clothing;
- (g) canteens, or accommodation and facilities (including facilities for heating food and boiling water) for workers employed at dock premises to eat meals provided by themselves; and
- (h) shelters for use during inclement weather.

Consultation

*EXPLANATORY NOTE**(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations are derived from the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (of Parliament) [SI 2005/735] and impose health and safety requirements with respect to work at height.

The Regulations —

- (a) impose duties relating to the organising and planning of work at height (regulation 5);
- (b) require that persons at work be competent, or supervised by competent persons (regulation 6);
- (c) prescribe steps to be taken to avoid risk from work at height (regulation 7 and Schedule 1);
- (d) impose duties relating to the selection of work equipment (regulation 8);
- (e) impose duties in relation to particular work equipment (regulation 9 and Schedules 2 to 6);
- (f) impose duties in relation to dock operations (regulation 10 and Schedule 8);
- (g) impose duties for the avoidance of risks from fragile surfaces, falling objects and danger areas (regulations 11 to 13);
- (h) require the inspection of certain work equipment and of places of work at height (regulations 14 and 15 and Schedule 7);
- (i) impose duties on persons at work (regulation 16);
- (j) provide certain exemptions by instructors or leaders in recreational climbing and caving (regulation 17); and
- (k) provide for exemptions from certain provisions (regulations 18 and 19).