

Date: 14th December 2021

Reference: SB 21 011

Working at Height – Access to vehicle Protection from a fall

Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of workplace fatalities. In Great Britain in 2020/2021 there were 35 fatalities, and over 5,000 injuries that caused the injured person to be off work for over 7 days or more.

A recent Health & Safety prosecution has again highlighted the risks of working at height where a driver in Hampshire fell from the bed of their vehicle and was fatally injured.

In the port industry we have drivers regularly visiting our sites to collect and deliver loads, they are required by law to ensure their load is safe and secure before they leave site.

The work we have recently undertaken in Peel Ports to re-issue our Working at Height Golden Rule requires all work at height to be risk assessed and have protection from a fall, this extends beyond our employees to all those who visit our sites.

Our priority must always be to follow the “hierarchy of control” and wherever possible remove the need to work at height. If a task can be undertaken safely from the ground then this approach should be adopted.

Where a driver requires access to the trailer or top of their vehicle they must comply with our Golden Rule. Where equipment is available to support a safe way of working e.g. an edge protected gantry, this must be used to protect from a fall. If there is no safe means of access then the driver must **STOP** and ensure suitable and sufficient controls are in place before proceeding.



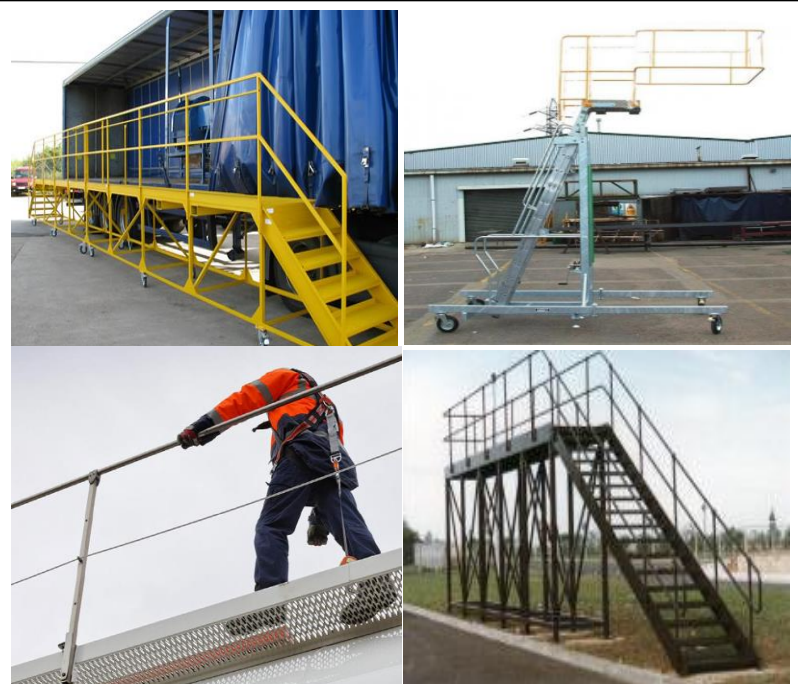
IN COURT

Business owner prosecuted over fatal accident

The owner of a business based in Odiham, Hampshire has been sentenced to eight months in prison, suspended for 18 months, after a fatal accident.

Colin Malam and his company Lubrication Management Services (LMS) Ltd pleaded guilty to health and safety at work offences following a prosecution brought by Hart District Council. The case followed the tragic death of delivery driver Michael Paull in 2018.

Michael Paull fell from the flatbed of an HGV which had not been risk-assessed. He died from his injuries 10 days later. Hart District Council Environmental Health Officers investigated the accident and advised LMS that systems were inadequate, and Improvement Notices were served in July 2018. However, the company continued to operate an unsafe system of work and legal proceedings commenced in 2019.



For further information please contact:

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