

FASET Bulletin SLS01 (Revision 1)

Inspection Requirements for Soft Landing Systems

Temporary safety systems such as Soft Landing Systems require formal inspection prior to handover and after every subsequent seven days or following adverse weather or incidents that could compromise the integrity of the system. Pre-use checks should also be made by the user in all cases. Combined, these checks ensure that the system is in good order and is safe for the operatives to work alongside. The safety of the operatives working above the soft landing system outweighs the time and cost of a suitably competent person inspecting the systems.

FASET is often asked where these requirements come from, if they are actually a requirement, or even if the requirement exists at all. The following extracts from the Work at Height Regulations 2005 explain in detail how the inspection requirements are derived.

The Work At Height Regulations 2005 - Regulation 12 - *Inspection of work equipment*

Regulation 12 of The Work at Height Regulations makes the following statements which are accompanied by supporting comments:

"12.-(1) This regulation applies only to work equipment to which regulation 8 and Schedules 2 to 6 apply." (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).

- Soft Landing Systems fall within this scope as they are covered by Regulation 8 and Schedule 4.

"12.-(2) Every employer shall 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." (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).

- Makes Pre-Handover inspections of Soft Landing Systems a requirement as the integrity of the system and its safety rely upon it being assembled with all component parts being correctly positioned.

"12.-(3) Every employer shall ensure that work equipment exposed to conditions causing deterioration which is liable to result in dangerous situations is inspected" (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).

- Makes inspections a requirement if deterioration of the system has occurred which may result in a dangerous situation, for example tampering, removal or wear of components, impacts or adverse weather.



For more information about FASET, contact:

FASET
PO BOX 138, WHITCHURCH
SHROPSHIRE, SY13 9AD

T +44 (0)1948 780652
E enquiries@faset.org.uk
W www.faset.org.uk

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*“12.-(3)(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” (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).*

- Makes inspections a requirement at suitable intervals, which FASET recommend should be at least every seven days or sooner if recommended by the manufacturer of the equipment. The requirement for inspection following tampering, removal or wear of components, impacts or adverse weather are again made clear.

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 - Regulation 8 - Requirements for particular work equipment and Schedule 4 - Requirements for collective safeguards for arresting falls

Regulation 8 of The Work at Height Regulations makes the following statement:

*“8. Every employer shall ensure that, in the case of -
(c) airbag or other collective safeguard for arresting falls which is not part of a personal fall protection system, Schedule 4 is complied with” (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).*

Schedule 4 Requirements for Collective Safeguards For Arresting Falls, relating to Regulation 8(c) makes the following statements which are accompanied by supporting comments:

“3. A safeguard shall be suitable and of sufficient strength to arrest safely the fall of any person who is liable to fall.

4. A safeguard shall -

(b) In the case of an airbag, landing mat or similar safeguard, be stable...” (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).

- Only by regularly inspecting the system and inspecting the system following adverse conditions can it be proven that it still has sufficient strength to arrest a fall and that is positioned correctly.

References

The Work at Height Regulations 2005, SI 2005/735.

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FASET
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SHROPSHIRE. SY13 9AD

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E enquiries@faset.org.uk
W www.faset.org.uk

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