

FASET Bulletin STS02 (Revision 1)

Inspection Requirements for Stair Towers

Temporary access systems such as Stair Towers 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 using the stair tower 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).

- Stair Towers fall within this scope as they are covered by regulation 8, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3.

"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 Stair Towers 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.

"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




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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.

“12.-(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (2), every employer shall 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” (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).

- Makes 7 day inspections for working platforms in construction where falls of over 2m can occur a requirement. This does not remove the need inspect under paragraph (3) equipment that does not allow a fall of 2 metres or more.

References

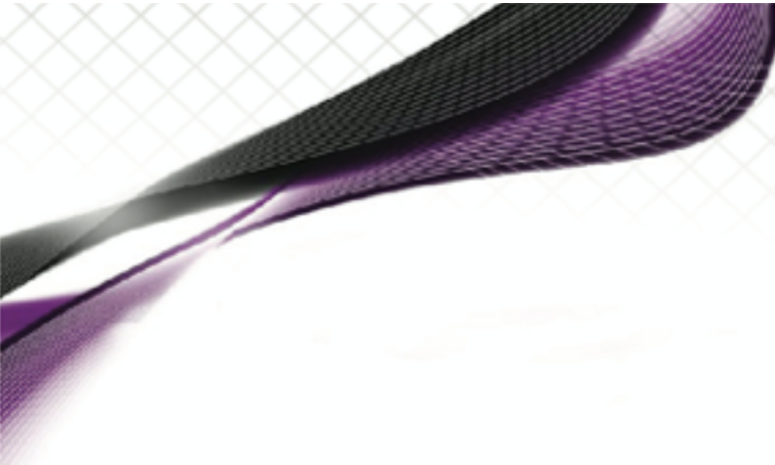
The Work at Height Regulations 2005, SI 2005/735.

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