

**INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS
TO DATE**

<i>Incident</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
Fall from platform	Fatality	1997
Gas exposure	Hospitalisation	1998
Fall through fragile roof	Near miss Hospital treatment	2000
Scaffold collapse	Near miss Equipment damaged	2000
CO exposure at steel works	Near miss	2000
Steam release by sampling platform	Near miss	2000
Fall from ladder	Hospitalisation	2000
Fall through platform	Fatality	2000
CO exposure	Near miss	2001
Handrail collapse	Near miss	2001
Lightning strike	Near miss	2003



Scafftag Categories	
Very light duty	to 0.75 kN/m ² (75kg/m ²)
General purpose	to 2.0 kN/m ² (202kg/m ²)
Heavy duty	to 2.5 kN/m² (252kg/m²)

HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN

Source Testing Association

Source Testing Association

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The Health & Safety Bulletin is a means of disseminating important issues relating health and safety of professionals involved in air emission monitoring and allied fields.

To contribute to this publication please e-mail H&S@s-t-a.org with your suggestions or article

STA Guidance Notes are available on the web site.

Visit WWW.S-T-A.org



Croner Health and Safety Briefing Newsletters

The STA is subscribing to this fortnightly newsletter produced by Croner CCH Group Ltd. Members can request a copy, a full list is available in the members area of the web site on the Health & Safety page. If you would like copy of any particular issue please contact Samantha, or email health-safety@s-t-a.org.



WHY oh WHY do you still do it!!!!!!

What price is put on safety?

Reports still come in to the STA offices of members and non-members using Cherry Pickers and light duty mobile platforms for carrying out stack emission monitoring.



What will it take before we stop using these dangerous practices. The STA guidance from when we started is not to use them.

All the guidance and including MCERTS performance standard outlaws the use of these devices. The CEN standards quote the type and rating of platform to use, BS EN13284-1 400 kg point load. None of this can be achieved from Cherry Pickers and light duty mobile platforms.

If a client ask you to work from one of these devices ask him if he would like to work up there with all the equipment you are taking. Do they realise the health and safety implication on them when something goes wrong?



If you have personnel certification to MCERTS you have signed up to improving Safety and quality throughout the industry, going up one of these platforms could jeopardise your certification.

Working at Heights regulations

The new working at height regulations are coming into force. Always remember that there is no replacement for a permanent safe working platform with good access. Eliminating the risks makes working safer and the requirement for fall/arrest and harness use is reduced dramatically.

ALWAYS ASSESS THE RISK

Introduction

The introduction of the new Working at Heights Regulations ¹ in 2003, Annex HSC/02/40a has widespread implications on how emissions monitoring will be conducted. These regulations build on the framework of current legislation ¹ with regard to the prevention of falls from height.

The new regulations place an absolute duty on employers, requiring them to take suitable and sufficient measures to prevent any person falling, and if in spite of these measures in place someone does fall, the height and consequences of the fall must be minimised.



Definition of Working at Height

Working at Height is defined as "where any person is to carry out work from which he/she is liable to fall a distance of 2 metres or more, or where any person is to use a means of access to or egress from a place of work from which access or egress he/she is liable to fall a distance of 2 metres or more." ²

The Implications of the New Regulations

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) legal interpretation is that while climbing at heights above 2 metres a person MUST be attached to the structure at all times.

The Source Testing Association state that "all sample teams must carry harnesses for **EVERY** member of staff in their vans, and all staff be trained in their use." This is a requirement from the HSE following the death of stack testers in the UK some years ago. At present harnesses/fall arrest devices are only occasionally used during monitoring activities as some would perceive them to be more of a hindrance if not installed correctly; it is argued by some that if such devices are needed then the workplace is unsafe to conduct monitoring.

The new regulations do not place a duty on employees to wear fall arrest devices whilst working on platforms, but do require monitoring personnel to use fall arrest devices whilst gaining access to, or egress from the working platform, i.e. on vertical ladders. These devices can take the form of running lines and/or double lanyards, both readily available from suppliers of protective equipment.



The Use of Ladders

The requirement laid out with

regard to wearing fall arrest equipment does not appear to apply to permanent fixed stairways, or ladders set at an angle, for example where deployed for short-term work, or on some scaffolding. In these instances the new regulations state that an employer shall ensure that a ladder is not used as a place of work, or as a means of access to or egress from a place of work, unless a risk assessment produced under the Management Regulations ³ indicates the use of more suitable work equipment is not justified because of:

- The low risk;
- The short duration of use;
- Existing features on site which cannot be altered.

It is important to remember that "every person using a ladder must have available a secure handhold and support, and can maintain a safe handhold when carrying a load." ¹



Falls & Falling Objects

The new regulations also add to current legislative requirements ² to prevent injury from falling objects. Good practice currently employed by teams such as laying matting on platforms to prevent objects falling, and where practicable employing barriers to prevent unauthorised access to any area below the working platform should satisfy these requirements.

The implications on stack monitoring personnel's private lives if they fail to use any safety equipment provided by their employer could be severe. It is important that all monitoring personnel bear in mind that current practices under these regulations will be classed as "free-climbing." In the event of an injury, or more seriously, a fatality this may place the individual in the position of being without suitable cover for insurances held against the individual's life, or their ability to work & meet repayments on mortgages etc.

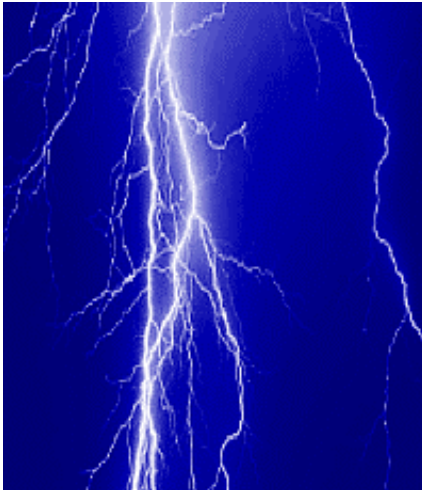
References

1. www.hse.gov.uk
2. HSE, 1996, Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1996, HSE Books, Sudbury.
3. HSE, 1999, Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999, HSE Books, Sudbury

Footnote

Guidance should always be sought from your company's own Health & Safety advisor before implementing any amendments

LIGHTNING CAN STRIKE STACK TESTERS



Just imagine a reasonable nice day 120 feet in the air looking over the nice countryside near Scunthorpe. You are ready to start carrying out stack testing when like a bolt out of the blue the stack and platform is struck by lightning.

This is what happened to one of our members. He was holding onto to the hand rail when lightning struck. There was a loud bang, and he said he saw a blue plasma discharge running up and down his arm. The stack and platform was steel and his colleague, who was not hit, was leaning against the stack. There was no lightning conductor. They made their way down off the 120 foot stack very rapidly. Unharmful, because the lightning hadn't earthed through them.

There are thousands of lightning strikes every day. Scientists think that lightning hits somewhere on the earth about 100 times every second. More people are killed by lightning than by any other kind of storm, including hurricanes and tornadoes. Every year, about 100 people are killed by lightning in the United States and also about 100 people in Europe. In the whole world, lightning kills more than 1,000 people in a year, maybe many more. A lot more people are hurt by lightning than are killed by it and many of those who live are hurt very badly.

Can you ever tell when lightning may be about to strike?

Sometimes you can feel when lightning might be about to strike. Try holding your arm very close to the front of a colour TV screen that is turned on and see how it feels. Look at the hair standing up on your arm. If you are in or near a storm and you feel this way, then you know that you may be in danger. Lightning could strike any second.

WHERE CAN LIGHTNING STRIKE?

Lightning can strike almost anywhere. Most people do not realise that many people are struck before and after the rain falls.

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from a storm. In fact, scientists are now pretty sure that it can strike 15 or more miles away from a cloud. So, if there is blue sky above you and it is not raining, you still might not be safe if you can see or hear a storm in the distance. Lightning can strike anywhere in a big circle around where the rain is falling.

Manual Handling

Manual handling and lifting is part and parcel of a stack testers life. It is one of the most common causes of injury or **STACK TESTERS BACK**.

The STA has supplied for many years, and a lot of you use, the Safe Lifting Kit. This was put together at a request from the membership. Full details on the web site www.s-t-a.org/lifting_equipment.htm. This helps getting the equipment up the stack. But there is obviously a lot of other lifting operations to consider.

The employer responsibilities include;

- ➔ avoid the need for hazardous manual handling, as far as reasonably practicable;
- ➔ assess the risk of injury from any hazardous manual handling that can't be avoided; and
- ➔ reduce the risk of injury from hazardous manual handling, as far as reasonably practicable.

Employees have duties too.

They should:

- ➔ follow appropriate systems of

work laid down for their safety;

- ➔ make proper use of equipment provided for their safety;
- ➔ co-operate with their employer on health and safety matters;
- ➔ inform the employer if they identify hazardous handling activities;
- ➔ take care to ensure that their activities do not put others at risk.



Each box in the diagram below shows guideline weights for lifting and lowering.

Observe the activity and compare to the diagram. If the lifter's hands enter more than one box during the operation, use the smallest weight. Use an in between weight if the hands are close to a boundary between boxes. If the operation must take place with the hands beyond the boxes, make a more detailed assessment.

The weights assume that the load is readily grasped with both hands.

The operation takes place in reasonable working conditions with the lifter in a stable body position.

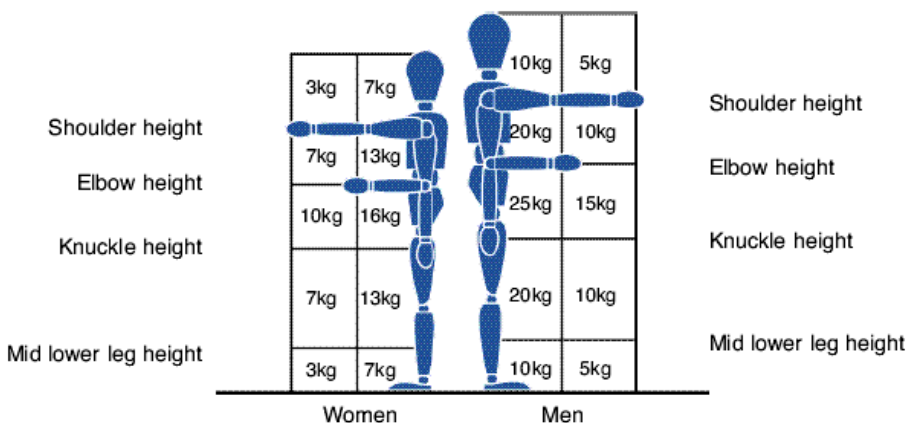
Any operation involving more than twice the guideline weights should be rigorously assessed - even for very fit, well-trained individuals working under favorable conditions.

There is no such thing as a completely 'safe' manual handling operation. But working within the guidelines will cut the risk and reduce the need for a more detailed assessment.

- ➔ Before attempting to lift anything, check the size and shape are within your capabilities.

- ➔ Never lift anything that is too heavy for you, test the weight by lifting one corner. If in doubt – get help.

- ➔ Assess the size and shape of the load in relation to the height at which you have to lift and your own physique.



STA Health & Safety Guidance Notes

The complete list and download facility are available in the members are of the

STA web site www.s-t-a.org

or contact Samantha for paper copies

New Guidance notes on the web site;

HSGN 013	Protection against noise
HSGN 014	Transportation of gas cylinders
HSGN 015	Manual handling
HSGN 016	Hazards of filling gas cylinders

NOTE ALL THE ORIGINAL GUIDANCE NOTES HAVE BEEN UPDATED DOWNLOAD FROM THE WEB SITE.

Health & Safety Booklet VERSION 6 NOW THE INDUSTRY STANDARD



The little **YELLOW** book in its expanded form is to become the industry standard and referred to in the new EA guidance documents. The booklet is available free to all. *Have you got your copy yet?*

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HAVE YOU BEEN ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT HEIGHTS COURSE ?

If not contact Samantha telephone 01462 457535 for the next available dates, cost is only £120.00 per delegate.

See web site details www.s-t-a.org/training.htm

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Vacancies on the STA's Health and Safety Task Group

We are looking for additional members to join the task group. If you would like to be involved in this very important area of our industries market and are able to attend four meetings per year.

Please contact Dave Curtis for further information.

01462 457535

You can help to make a difference