



Work at Height Guidance Note WAH 002

Working on stacks that penetrate fragile roofs

Issue Date: December 2005, supersedes None

The Work at Heights Regulations 2005 state that persons at work shall be protected from the risks of fragile surfaces by considering the following hierarchy;

- a) Avoiding work on or near fragile surfaces or
- b) By providing suitable and sufficient platforms, coverings, guard rails or similar means of support or protection
- c) If a risk of falling still exists with the above protection in place then suitable or sufficient measures shall be taken to minimise distances and consequences of a fall.
- d) Erecting prominent notice boards at the approach to the place where the fragile surface is situated or use other means to make other workers aware of the fragile surface

The regulations state that a), b), c) and d) shall be undertaken where it is reasonably practicable.

In the context of stack emission monitoring 'fragile surfaces' may include flat roofs made of asbestos or metal cladding, roofs with skylights, wooden roofs, slate or tile roofs and fibreglass roofs, this list is not exhaustive.

A roof may not be considered a fragile surface but it may contain fibreglass or glass sky lights which are fragile surfaces. The entire roof should therefore be considered a fragile surface. Sky lights which are highly visible from below are often difficult to see from the roof. These need special attention when it is not possible to work below the roof and sampling must be undertaken from the roof.

Reference documents;

[The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#)

[ACR \[CP\] 002:2005](#) -Guidance Note for Safe Working on Fragile Roofs
Covering the Designing, Planning and carrying out of Inspection, Maintenance,
Repair and Refurbishment Work.