

Title	Explain safe work practices for working at heights		
Level	3	Credits	3

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to explain the legislative requirements associated with working at heights, and the systems suitable for working at heights.
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Classification	Occupational Health and Safety > Occupational Health and Safety Practice
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

Definitions

Access systems include but are not limited to – permanently fixed access and platforms, temporary non-fixed access and platforms.

Fall arrest systems include but are not limited to – safety belts and harnesses, and safety nets.

Hazard identification and control includes but is not limited to – hazard isolation, elimination, and reduction; accidents and incidents recording and notification.

Legislative requirements includes but is not limited to – Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and relevant regulations, and any applicable Approved Codes of Practice created under the primary Act or related guidelines.

Organisational requirements refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures which are documented in memo or manual format and are available in the workplace. These requirements may include but are not limited to – site specific requirements, company quality management requirements, Approved Codes of Practice and guidelines, and legislative requirements.

Temporary non-fixed access includes but is not limited to ladders.

Working at heights includes but is not limited to – work carried out where falls of three metres or more may occur, plant and building maintenance, plant inspections, scaffolding work, working off platforms, and some areas of demolition.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain the legislative requirements associated with working at heights.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Legislative requirements stated in the HSWA and its subsequent amendments are explained in terms of fall arrest, height work, and associated safety activities.
- Range requirements include but are not limited to – employers', employees', and principals' duties; hazard identification and control; regulations involved when working above three metres; safety equipment manufacturers' and suppliers' duties; training and supervision obligations.
- 1.2 Legislative requirements connected with standards and codes of practice are explained in terms of fall arrest, height work, and associated safety activities.
- Range requirements include but are not limited to – design, general safety, permanently fixed access and platforms, temporary non-fixed access and platforms, safety belts and harnesses, safety nets.
- 1.3 Hazard factors are identified in terms of each type of height work and type of fall arrest system to identify the controls required for health and safety compliance.
- Range factors include but are not limited to – weather conditions, unguarded openings and building perimeters, ill-considered designs, no means of prevention from or arresting a fall, inadequate anchorage points, lack of guard rails, lack of knowledge and experience, lack of safety and protective clothing.

Outcome 2

Explain the systems suitable for working at heights.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Different types of access systems are identified.
- Range permanent fixed access and platforms, temporary non-fixed access and platforms, scaffolding, mechanical plant for the support of personnel.
- 2.2 The applications of safety nets are explained in terms of minimising risks resulting from falls.
- Range secondary protection for personnel, suitability for use, protection of other personnel/public.
- 2.3 Different types of safety belts and harnesses are explained in terms of their applications to the height work to be undertaken.
- Range types include but are not limited to – safety belts, sit-harnesses, line person belts, full body harnesses.

Planned review date	31 December 2022
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	25 November 2000	31 December 2018
Revision	2	16 May 2005	31 December 2018
Review	3	25 May 2007	31 December 2018
Rollover and Revision	4	22 May 2014	31 December 2018
Rollover and Revision	5	19 January 2017	N/A
Rollover and Revision	6	22 August 2019	N/A
Rollover and Revision	7	25 March 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0121
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact The Skills Organisation reviewcomments@skills.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.