

IMPLEMENTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 2015:
Better Regulation - Plant, Structures and Working at Heights

HEIGHTS & SCAFFOLDING



You'll be interested in this fact sheet if you are in the construction sector and /or:

- > commission or carry out work at heights
- > hire or commission scaffolding
- > design, construct, manufacture or inspect scaffolding

In Section 6 of the discussion document we set out some of the problems we see with the regulation of work at heights and scaffolding and we propose some changes to fix the problems.

If you own or use mechanical access equipment, such as hoists, scissor lifts and telehandlers, refer to Section 5, high-risk equipment. You might also be interested in Section 2 on plant and Section 3 on mobile plant.

Work at height remains a significant source of harm for the construction sector...

Falls from heights cause significant harm in the construction sector.

In 2015 falls from heights led to 18 per cent of the total estimated costs of injury for the construction industry. This was a reduction from 27 per cent of the total costs of injury in 2009, but still nearly twice the rate for other sectors combined.

Falls on construction sites tend to be more serious. For construction, the average cost of individual falls from height is twice that for other sectors. Injury rates for falls from heights are particularly high for residential construction.

Sector groups we have spoken to describe a lack of clarity for builders and others managing the risks for falls from heights in workplaces.

Compared with regulations in other comparable countries, those in New Zealand do not describe a process for managing the risks of work at height, or clear criteria for assessing what is "reasonably practicable".



Current regulations are ambiguous in their requirements and coverage...

- › Current regulations are ambiguous and incomplete
- › Injury prevention costs (i.e. often a full scaffold) are high and may be imposed directly on clients
- › It is unclear which New Zealand or other Standards apply to any given situation
- › Increased costs for builders and other trades may lead to homeowners completing work for themselves, perhaps less safely or competently
- › Competency requirements for scaffolders are out of step with industry best practice and training
- › Notification requirements for scaffolding are unclear

We want to hear your views on these and any other issues that you think could be addressed to make work at heights and scaffolding safer. You'll find more information about these problems and ideas in Section 6 of the discussion paper.

Here are some ideas we're proposing for the regulation of working at heights and scaffolding. Tell us what you think.

Apply the Prescribed Risk Management Process to work at heights in all workplaces

For construction work

- › Prescribe a mandatory hierarchy of controls
- › Exclude work under a certain height or of short duration from the full hierarchy
- › Revise competency, inspection and notification requirements for scaffolding
- › Require registration of designs of scaffolding componentry (see section 5)

For other sectors

- › Revise the definition of "construction work" to clearly set out what is in and what is out

With your help, we want to get this right

Based on your experience and information, we want to know what proposals and options you think will be most effective to achieve the change we want to see for workers and businesses.

Tell us what is going to work in practice and how it will impact you, your workers, or your business.

Your feedback will help us identify the best options for change and inform the government's final policy decisions.

Make a submission at www.mbie.govt.nz/plant-and-structures