

Working at Height

Safety@Optus Hazard Standard



What you need to know

Falls from heights have been identified as one of the leading causes of traumatic fatalities and serious injuries.

In fact, most fatal and serious falls occur from roofs, ladders, scaffolds or falling through fragile roof sheeting from a height of between 2 and 4 metres, however the use of ladders, incomplete scaffolds, falling off a truck, and working levels below 2 metres have also been identified as a major cause of injury. So, there must be controls in place if there is a risk of falling from one level to another.

What is regarded as Working at Height?

Working at heights could mean working as high up as a multi-storey building, or as low down as the second rung from the bottom of a ladder.

Suppliers must manage the risk of a fall by a person from one level to another, regardless of the height. If there is a risk of a person falling from one level to another you need a **Safe Work Method Statement** to plan how to keep your workers safe.

This includes, The use of, and working on Ladders – working where there are unprotected edges in or on powered plant or a structure that is at an elevated level; such as Telecommunications towers, monopoles, utility poles and at times manholes in or on powered plant that is being used to gain access to an elevated level;

All necessary site safety documentation related to working at height and the use of mobile plant to facilitate working at height must be kept and submitted to Optus as part of the site final phase handover pack.

Australian Standards & Industry Codes

It is the responsibility of the Contractor working on behalf of Optus to be aware of, and detail in its Safety Management Plans the work practices and processes it uses to meet these standards and the requirements set out in this document.

It will be the responsibility of the Contractor / site supervisor to provide documented evidence of how it meets these requirements when Optus performs its site inspections.

- AS1657:2018 - Fixed Platforms, Walkways, Stairways and Ladders
- AS/NZS 5532 - Manufacturers requirements for single point anchors
- AS/NZS 1891.1 - Safety Belts and Harnesses
- AS/NZS 1891.2 - Horizontal Lifeline and Rail Systems
- AS/NZS 1891.3 - Fall Arrest Devices
- AS/NZS 1981.4 - Selection, Use & Maintenance of Fall Arrest Systems and Devices
- AS/NZS 4488 - Industrial Rope Access Systems (lad safe)
- AS/NZS 5532 - Manufacturers requirements for single point anchors



Working at Height

Safety@Optus Contractor Requirements



1. The contractor must have a process to identify, risk assess and control all working at height hazards and how the management of the potential risk of harm is carried out.
2. The contractor must be able to demonstrate how it uses the fall from height hierarchy of control to establish the layers of risk control and the most effective management of risk, and where practicable, eliminating the use of ladders.
3. The contractor must demonstrate how it uses the hierarchy of control to prevent objects being dropped from height.
4. The control measures used to manage on site risk must be clearly communicated and consulted with all workers for input, the controls then documented on the project risk register and site-specific Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS).
5. The Contractor must have a SWMS listing the activities that working at height is required for and listing the controls that are in place to minimise or where possible eliminate, the potential of incidents or harm to any person.
6. The Contractor must have a consultation process with workers that communicates working at heights requirements – this must include its collaborative approach if it involves mobile plant or other PCBUs that may be present on the same site at the same time.
7. Consultation must include site risk assessment with details of site set up, the marking and placement of barriers and exclusion zones – pedestrian walkways and ensuring additional safe access / egress zones for works at height or other work areas where required – prevention of dropped objects - proximity to RF fields with potential of exposure to workers.
8. Systems and processes are in place to check the structural integrity of which works are performed and are safe to climb, or in general being safe to work on – this includes any loose components and structural additions.
9. The contractor must verify that any systems/structures in place to prevent falls are installed and inspected according to the specifications required by the manufacturer, and any other relevant legal and other requirements. (e.g. Engineer Certification, Licenced Rigger ,Scaffolder, handover certificates)
10. Safe systems are in place for management of fall restraint/fall arrest equipment, and to make sure that the equipment being used is used by formally trained persons, appropriately maintained/inspected, and attached to points that are certified to be adequate to sustain the potential force of a falling person. (e.g. Work at Height trained)
11. The Contractor must have on site any relevant climbing equipment logbooks, including associated equipment and be able to demonstrate a process for the inspection and maintenance of any fall restraint devices, harnesses, slings, pullies, tool tethers, anchor points and any additional equipment used, this must be in accordance with Australian Standards and manufacturers safety specification. All records must be available.
12. The Contractor must have a process that captures all working at heights fitness to climb / training records and permits to work where required – this must be available upon request.
13. An emergency plan for works at height has been documented is regularly practiced and is available at the workplace. The plan must consider location of work area; communications; rescue equipment; rescue capabilities; first aid; emergency services and actions to be taken after an arrested fall.