

**October 2015**

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the October 2015 Height Safety News.

Sorry if you missed us over the summer.

This month we discuss the confusion about "Restraint" loads, the importance of a User Appointed Person when using Temporary Suspended Access Equipment, and competence confusion over PASMA adjustments. We also show you "How to select a height safety consultant" when you need one.



## **Restraint or Fall-Arrest ?**

In the past, the words "Restraint" and Fall Arrest were often used to separate work methods and anchor loads. "Restraint" was frequently misused. There was even a suggestion that the load capacity of a "Restraint" anchor could be reduced to 1kN. ... **this is NOT the case.**

EN 795 : 2012 included some specific technical changes. All anchors must be designed and proven to accept the worst case fall load, even if they are intended for "Restraint." This is to allow for incompetence and misuse.

The introduction specifically states **"To allow for foreseeable misuse of equipment, this European Standard provides requirements and test methods for anchor devices used in personal fall protection systems in accordance with EN 363, even if their intended use is for restraint."**

EN 795 : 2012 also increased the minimum structural capacity to 12kN. This effectively means that any anchor point for the connection of Personal Fall Protection Equipment should have this minimum capacity, and the often used "excuse" that the system is for Restraint loads only **cannot longer be used.**



The trade body, SAEMA, publish some excellent advice and guidance on the safe and correct use of TSAE (Temporary Suspended Access Equipment).

The guidance references the Standards and Regulations, and also confirms the significance of the User Appointed Person (UAP) and their responsibilities.

The UAP must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the TSAE and must accept responsibility for the ensuring that the equipment is competently and correctly installed, used, and maintained, at all times.

The UAP should be personally identified before any work commences.

This significant role is frequently overlooked when specifying temporary cradles on construction sites, the user often relying solely on the installation contractor to confirm suitability and fitness for use of the TSAE.

BS 5974 confirms the main requirements, and reinforces the need for a competent suitably qualified and experienced person to accept the role of the User Appointed Person.



There appears to be significant confusion concerning this question. Many contractors now permit use of an aluminium tower without PASMA competence.

The "user," however is expected to move the tower, adjust the legs and often the guard rails, whilst working. When questioned about their competence the "user" explains that the tower is inspected weekly by a trained and competent PASMA card holder.

ANY adjustment of the tower can compromise it. The legs must be raised to move the tower, they are often not correctly replaced. If the level of the guard rails frustrates the user, the levels will be changed and again the tower is compromised. The same is true for the deck level. PASMA training is not expensive or complicated, but it does ensure that the trainee at least knows how it SHOULD be done.

Our advice would be that any team working with an aluminium tower, has at least one member who is trained and competent to correctly erect, adjust, and move the tower .. to ensure that it is fit for purpose more than just once a week.

"Free" advice is often not free of bias. If you ask a scaffolding contractor about the most suitable form of access, you should not be surprised at their suggestion. We have written a guidance note on "[How to select a height safety advisor](#)." It is an available download from the website, and should help you see the wood for the trees.

Let us know what you think !

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