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Height Safety News



July 2014

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the July 2014 Height Safety News. In this issue we look at the impact of forthcoming CDM changes, suggest a new piece of personal access equipment, and explain the confusion over anchors for Rope Access support.



CDM Comment.

There has been an on-going discussion and debate about the forthcoming changes to the CDM Regulations, and the impact that they will have on the role of the CDM Co-ordinator. The idea is that a

Principle Designer will have the H&S responsibility at the design phase, and that the Principle Contractor will have the same during construction. The co-ordination responsibility is being removed.

[APS](#) (the Association for Project Safety) has hosted much of the debate. I have picked, and paraphrased, a few "pearls" :-

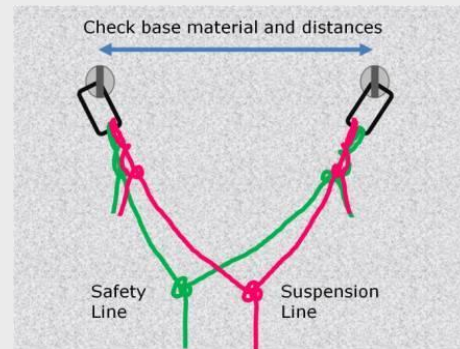
- The decision to create a dedicated H&S role within the design team was made (in 1994) because of the refusal of many designers to recognise their H&S responsibility.
- There are numerous occasions when the lack of an early appointment limits the CDM Co-ordinator's ability to influence the design phase.
- Every project should have someone involved who is seriously, and independently, interested in effective construction risk management.
- Why limit the Principle Designer's role to pre-construction, surely there is a need for continuity.

It seems that we are still avoiding the basic issue that "good design" needs to be safely buildable and safely maintainable. The options and alternatives to achieve this are increasingly specialist, and are changing very fast. If the designers, planners, and tenderers within a project, lack the specialist knowledge, experience, or skills to achieve this, they should take [advice](#). **Early advice is normally more efficient and more effective.**



PECO Lift .. looking instersting ?

I recently encountered the relatively new [Peco](#), wind up, lift. This is a small footprint single user limited height work platform, that falls into the Personal Fall Prevention section of the work at height hierarchy. It is very simple to use, relatively light, and very fast to go up and down. It seems to be scoring highly among the concrete frame contractors, and clearly has few of the frustrations of the podium step what do you think



There has been some confusion over the specification of anchors for rope access. Many have referred to EN 795 Class A1, whose minimum structural requirement from 2012 has been 12kN (in the direction of applied load). BS 7985 the Code of Practice for Rope Access requires a support capacity minimum of 15kN (in the direction of applied load).

The problem arises because of the different way that the factors of safety have been considered, FOS of 2 for EN 795, and FOS of 2.5 for Rope Access. This is further explained or justified by the Rope Access need for additional support for potential rescue.

more detail on this, or
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