

# VSS 1 WORK AT HEIGHT - SAFETY PERFORMANCE STANDARD

## 1. Scope

This standard applies to all Vedanta business units, operations and projects and to any task where there is a risk of a fall by a person from one level to another that is reasonably likely to cause an injury to that person or any other person. This includes but is not limited to work on temporary structures, roofs, climbing on vehicles and use of scaffolds, portable ladders etc.

This Standard is supported by Guidance Notes GN21: Work at Height; and GN19: Scaffolding Safety. These GNs should be referenced as a key part of implementing this Standard.

## 2. People

- 2.1. Persons who work at height and who erect scaffolding must be trained and certified as competent;
- 2.2. Medical testing is mandatory for people required to work at height and must include conditions as required by the local business Chief Medical Officer and includes any illnesses that may affect the person or the work. The frequency of medical testing must be determined by a risk assessment.

## 3. Process

- 3.1. Prior to any work at height or erecting of a scaffolding being carried out a hazard assessment shall be conducted. The hazard assessment must identify all possible falls from height during the expected activity and potential of injury. The risk of the fall must be controlled through the appropriate use of the hierarchy of control, which in order of priority is:
  - 3.1.1. Eliminate the need to work at height by doing the work from the ground;
  - 3.1.2. Implement fall prevention wherever practicable to provide a safe working area using elevation work platforms, stable work platforms, scaffolding, secure fences, use of edge protection to prevent a person from getting close to the edge etc.;
  - 3.1.3. Utilise fall protection systems such as fall arrest harnesses and shock absorbing lanyards, certified safety nets (with a minimum breaking strength of 320 kilogram per mesh, and mesh size 64 mm (coated with UV coating for durability outdoors), etc. including when working on elevated work platforms or man-lifts.
- 3.2. Each Vedanta business unit and operation is required to design and implement a work at height and safe scaffolding procedure, instruction and/or permit that manages the risk of a fall by a person from one level to another;
- 3.3. Each working at height task shall be planned to specially include how those procedures will be implemented in practice. This must include self-rescue and emergency rescue procedures with periodic mock drills. It must also include restrictions on work time considering weather conditions, night work etc.
- 3.4. Where overhead work is being conducted, barricades must be erected around the work area to protect others from walking or working under the area and protect from the risk of falling objects.

## 4. Review

- 4.1. A system of inspecting and auditing the working at height and scaffolding safety activities must be implemented to ensure that the standards required are maintained;

- 4.2. All work at height equipment must be tested and certified including, but not limited to, scaffolding, platforms, EWP's, scissor lifts, man baskets, fences, edge protection, covers, harnesses, lanyards, static lines, anchor points;
- 4.3. Regional legislation and regulations; local and international standards; codes of practice and guidance notes specific to the unit or operation must be followed.



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