

## Appendix 1: GP/W2 Work at Height Risk Assessment Guidance

When assessing the risks, use must be made of all the information available about the work to be carried out. All foreseeable hazards and risks must be considered in advance and the following issues may need consideration.

Work at height can include, but is not exclusively limited to:

- working at ground level adjacent to an excavation;
- working on roofs;
- working from a ladder;
- Working on/ with step stools, kick stools, etc.

Specific guidance on ladders and stepladders can be found in the Health and Safety Executive document Safe use of Ladders and Stepladders (INDG455)

Specific guidance on working at height can be found in the Health and Safety Executive document Working at height (INDG401)

Issues for consideration in the risk assessment include:

- the work activity being carried out;
- frequency of access;
- the duration of the work;
- the location in relation to the presence of hazards such as open excavations, overhead services, asbestos etc;
- the working environment with regard to weather or lighting;
- Working within public areas, high footfall traffic etc.;
- safe means of access and egress;
- lone working;
- condition and stability of work surfaces such as fragile materials, slippery surfaces etc;
- physical capabilities of the workers such as pregnancy or vertigo sufferers;
- the equipment to be used and its inspection;
- falling objects; and
- prevention of access by unauthorised persons;

Information on work at heights is available from the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm> or from the Health and Safety Team.

The requirements for control will increase as the risks of injury increase. Issues such as permits, fall arrest, rescue protocols and fitness to work will generally only apply where there is significant risk of injury, but **ALL** activities involving work at height will need to be risk assessed.

Further support on assessment issues can be obtained from H&S Team at [fife.safety-fife@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.safety-fife@nhs.scot). Information and support on fitness to work at height can be obtained from [Fife.occhealth@nhs.scot](mailto:Fife.occhealth@nhs.scot).