



Warning Notice

Working at Height Regulations



At this time of year it is enormously important that policy and procedures are not allowed to lapse as we enter the **festive season**. Among the many requirements please remember the **Working at Height Regulations**. Typing chairs are not designed to stand on to put up the seasonal decorations, although they can make very interesting **skate boards** to the un-initiated.

You must also remember your responsibilities regarding contractors and uninvited visitors, especially those in **red suites** and disguises. Before allowing these individuals to enter the building they must obviously register in the visitor's book and fill in any permit to work forms for working on the roof. **Parking on the roof**, with or without reindeer should be prohibited and appropriate signage displayed. Inappropriate entry to the building should also be discouraged, e.g. by chimneys unless appropriate assessments of risk have been completed. The use of **safety harness** and suspension systems would be deemed essential.

There are obviously security issues regarding a rotund elderly male who has dressed up in a red suite sporting a **fake beard** wandering round your premises looking for children to bounce on his knee and give presents too! CRB and list 99 checks may be appropriate.

Once on site any working at height should be managed to minimise the risk to employees, contractors and the visitors. The use of your work equipment such as **step ladders** whilst not inappropriate may have insurance implications so worth avoiding. Before the rotund, dressed up visitor uses any equipment you may want to ensure that the appropriate **toolbox talks** have been attended and signed for. The visitor must complete the risk assessment for all working at height tasks to be carried out and show how he is going to minimise the risk to your employees and others. This would include insuring appropriate clothing for the task (not sure about the red suite), an elf will be required to **foot the ladder**/step ladder, keeping the buckle within the uprights, only one handed operations, no overreaching, warning signs,

In fact it is much easier just tell him to go away! Ba humbug or what!

Have a Safe, Healthy and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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