

### SHEMS-MST-DPS-0006

The following Minimum Standard is applicable on all projects



#### General Unitas requirements applicable to this standard

Unitas recognise that materials, tools, PPE and equipment (phones etc.) falling from height can cause injury and damage to property. The control of these items whilst working at height must be considered as part of the risk assessment process and detailed within the safe system of work. A safe system of work at height will consider:

- The method of lifting and hoisting materials to height and the controls involved
- Possible containment such as toe boards, sheeting or netting solutions in place at the workplace
- Weather conditions
- Exclusion zones
- Communication and signage
- Tethering of tools, instruments and other equipment

From the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Unitas are introducing a tethered tool & equipment requirement across all projects, to minimise the potential for dropped objects. The implementation & use of tethered tools & equipment is set out below: -

**SSOW and RAMS to show mitigation of risk from WAH before Tethering of tools is considered.**

#### Mandatory Use unless as stated as above of Tethered Tools & Equipment requirement

- During the erection, adaption & dismantling of all scaffold
- During the external use of cherry pickers, scissor lifts and mast climbers. For other situations follow the criteria below (i.e. risk assessment)
- Any location where tools and equipment could fall into PPE free zones or public areas (decision to be made in consultation with your local SHE team)

The use of tethered tools where not practical to implement risk in SSOW or RAMS whilst WAH are to be used when investigatory work, snagging, remedial or defect work is undertaken in occupied premises.

Other situations where a risk assessment must be undertaken to determine control measures to minimise the potential for dropped objects (which may include tethering) include: -

- When within four metres of an opening or leading edge of a structure
- When working externally to a structure where there is a risk of tools falling more than one storey\*
- Where there is a risk of tools falling more than one storey\* within the building (eg, risers, stairwells, shafts, atria and entrance halls)

\* A storey height is taken as 3.0m

The activity specific risk assessment must be evaluated & approved by the Unitas management team.

# MINIMUM STANDARD

## Tethering of Tools and Equipment

### Specification of Tool & Equipment Tethers

Tool and equipment tethers must: -

- Carry a CE mark (this includes self-certification from the manufacturer)
- Be provided with a test certificate to confirm the maximum weight of the tethered item
- Be matched to a tool/equipment that has been individually weighed to confirm it's within the maximum allowable
- Be provided with a locking mechanism at the connection points
- Be marked with its Safe Working Load

Tool tethers must not –

- Be modified in any way unless approved by the manufacturer
- Increase the overall risk associated with the work activities and conditions

### Anchoring of Tethered Tools

- Tools & equipment weighing more than 2.3kg must be secured to a fixed anchorage point rather than an individual
- To avoid damaging tethering lanyards purpose made anchor straps must be used to secure the tether to fixed anchor points
- All fixed anchor points must be capable of taking the load that would be imposed in the event of the attached tool or equipment being dropped

### Planning

All tasks will require assessing to establish if tethering solutions are to be adopted. Please note: -

- A range of lanyards, specialised tools and retrofit solutions (heat shrink tethers and taped solutions) for existing tools and equipment are available and should be selected considering the weight of each item being secured
- Specialist bags (or similar) for hoisting and holding small fixings etc, that prevent spills are also available
- Daily inspections of Lanyards and tethers must be undertaken prior to use

### Procurement

These requirements apply equally regardless of whether Unitas or a sub-contractor is working at height.

### Documentation

- Tethers must carry a CE mark (this includes self-certification from the manufacturer)
- Be provided with a test certificate to confirm the maximum weight of the tool or equipment being secured

### Further Guidance and Support

On-site Support Limited.

Re: Fall proof Equipment

[www.onsite-support.co.uk](http://www.onsite-support.co.uk)

Or Enfield Safety

Tel: 0333 003 5710 & 0845 074 1123

<https://enfieldsafety.co.uk>

# MINIMUM STANDARD

## Tethering of Tools and Equipment

### TETHERING OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

		CHECK	COMPLETE Y/N or N/A
	1.	Is the work being carried out within 4m of an opening or edge of a structure? (Including: atria's, stairwells, mezzanines, shafts, MEWPS, risers, aluminium towers, roofs, scaffolding, mast climbers).	
	2.	Is there a risk of tools falling more than 1 storey/3m, either internally or externally?	
		<b>If the answer is YES to questions 1 and 2, please continue.</b>	
<b>Plan/Risk Assess</b>	4.	Have the control of falling objects/materials been added to Appendix E/F of the CPHSP?	
	5.	Has a suitable Risk Assessment to control falling objects/tools/materials been included as part of the SSW, evaluated by a Unitas Manager on <a href="#">SHEMS-FOR-GR-073</a> ?	
	6.	Is the method of lifting/lowering and hoisting materials planned with suitable controls?	
	7.	Are exclusion zones required?	
	8.	Is there a system in place to ensure materials/tools are secured/cleared at the end of the shift?	
	9.	Has the Work At Height hierarchy of control process been followed??	
	10.	Are any Traffic Management/Segregation measures required?	
	11.	Has the Work At Height protection of risers and openings red top mandatory standard been followed?	
	12.	Has evidence that <b>ALL</b> tools and tethers carry a CE mark (this includes self-certification from the manufacturer)	
	13.	Are all tool weights known and considered within the SSW?	
	14.	Are tethers appropriate to fit each tool?	
	15.	Is tether storage specified?	
	16.	Are toe boards, brick guards, fans, crash decks, scaff gap, netting, monarflex and hoarding specified and in use where appropriate?	
	17.	Are any measures to protect the public or other operatives required?	
<b>Pre-start checks</b>	18.	Has the work/task been communicated at the Unitas Supervisors daily briefing?	
	19.	If exclusion zones are required (a) are they segregated with clipped rigid barriers displaying appropriate signage to prevent entry into the area? (b) Is the segregated boundary an appropriate distance from the task, based on the potential fall height?	
	20.	Does the segregated area impact on site emergency escape routes? If yes, has an alternative plan been communicated?	
	21.	Have tethers and tools been inspected prior to use?	
	22.	Are all mesh gratings covered if tools/material can fall through them?	
	23.	Are there any overhead risks? If yes, are they controlled?	

Signature .....

Date .....