# MINIMUM STANDARD
## Fall Arrest Safety Nets

**The following Minimum Standard is applicable on all projects**

### Introduction
Safety Nets **do not prevent falls**, but when installed **correctly** provide **collective**, passive restraint to **minimise the distance and consequences of a fall**.

**Planning**
Consideration needs to be given to the method of attachment as this can change for particular beam sections/profiles. Where roof overhangs exist, the strength and design of the edge protection and net fixing method must be established. Programming of work elements must ensure that plant movements, access platforms and material storage are such that the net and the deflection zone are not compromised.

**Correct Use of Safety Nets: Guidelines**
All safety nets must meet the requirements of BS EN1263-1 (product manufacture, testing and maintenance). Every net must have an identification label which must contain the following information:-

- A unique identification number
- The date of manufacture and date that the next test is due
- Confirmation that the net conforms to BS EN1263-1

Safety Nets should be installed as close as possible to the underside of the working platform and never more than 2m below the working level. All fixing/anchorage points must be confirmed to be of sufficient strength e.g. structural steel, or in the case of house building, sufficiently cured walls. Anchorages must be capable of withstanding a load of 6kN at 45°.
Safety Nets should be secured to structural members at a maximum of 2.5m centres, or as specified by the manufacturer if proprietary attachment devices are used.
***NB*: Scaffold girder clamps (Gravloks) must not be used <u>unless</u> used in pairs with a butt tube between them.**

The tie cords should always be secured to the border cord that runs around the perimeter of the safety net.
The maximum gap between the edges of the nets and the structure must not exceed 100mm. In certain localised circumstances where unusual/difficult obstructions are present, the maximum gap around the obstruction must not exceed 225mm.
There must be sufficient clearance below the safety net to allow for net deflection should somebody fall into it. Plant and materials are not to be permitted to encroach into this deflection zone.

**Lightweight mobile towers requirement (Minimum standard SHEMS-MST-DPS-0011)**

Lightweight mobile access towers are **not** recommended for the rigging/de-rigging of safety nets. However, there may be occasions where their use is appropriate providing the following criteria can be met:

- Floor surface is suitable and there is sufficient space available to deploy stabilisers/outriggers
- Confirmation of PASMA training and additional supervision to maintain compliance with the agreed safe system of work
- Additional measures are taken, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, to prevent overturning e.g. tying in
- Towers are positioned so that operators are not required to over reach beyond the tower guard rails

**Approved Methods of joining and gathering safety nets**

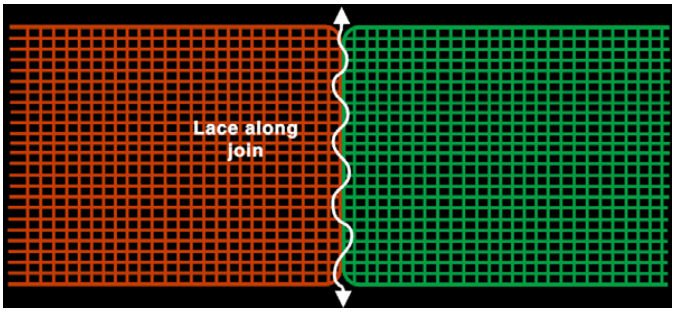


***Fig 1* Lacing** – Nets laced together with 8mm lacing cord.
No gap to be greater than 100mm.

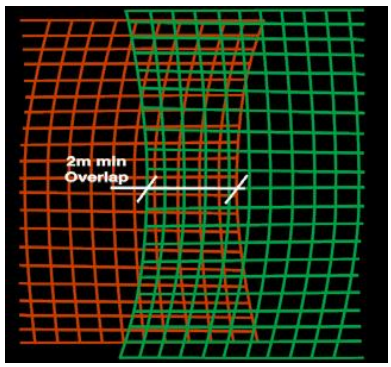


***Fig 2* Overlapping** The overlap must be 2m at the narrowest point

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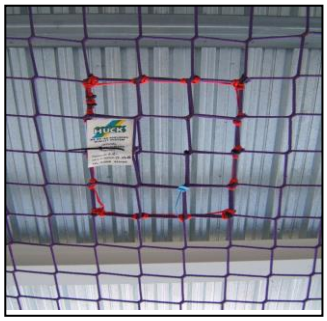
**Repairs to safety nets**



All permanent repairs to safety nets should be neat and tidy and must be carried out by a competent person who holds a current FASET Repair Training Certificate for the particular net. Details of the date the repair was undertaken together with the name of the person who made the repair should be readily available. All permanent repairs made must have a repair identification label attached. No two repairs may overlap.

There shall be no more than two temporary repairs carried out in any one safety net and any damage can be no greater than three mesh strands.

**Procurement**

The contents of this Minimum Standard must be adhered to whether the order is placed directly with a net provider/installer or as part of another trade package.

**Competence/Training**

- FASET Member Companies (listed on the FASET web site www.faset.org.uk) must be engaged to install safety nets to BS EN 1263-2
- Net riggers must hold a current CSCS Safety Net Rigger Card. There are two grades of Net Rigging Cards, all are endorsed on the rear "Safety Net Rigger":-
    - Blue card - Skilled or Experienced Worker
    - Red card – Trainee

For details of what each card entitles the holder to do, see http://www.faset.org.uk/training-rigging-qualifications.htm

**Note: Trainees CANNOT work unsupervised, or hand over nets to the client.**

FASET have launched a Specialist Rigger qualification. This is aimed at situations where the 'normal' methods of erecting safety nets (remote attachment device, MEWP, ladder etc.) are not reasonably practicable. This qualification is only available to existing Safety Net Riggers who are holders of the Blue Skilled CSCS Safety Net Rigger card. **It will be evidenced by an endorsement on the rear of the card – "FASET Specialist Rigger"**

- FASET Specialist Riggers are **not** permitted to carry out a work task while suspended from a rope
- Net inspectors are to have passed a FASET safety net inspection course. Inspectors **cannot** rig or alter netting installations. A blue carded safety net rigger can also inspect safety netting installations

**Documentation**

- The Net Erection Company is required to carry out a visual inspection of every net before it is sent to site for erection. Evidence of these inspections is to be requested from the net erection company
- Handover certificates including safety net test records
- Competence records for installers and repairers
- Once installed and handed over safety nets should be inspected by a competent person weekly or after adverse weather conditions, with the inspection recorded on the weekly monitoring sheet

- **Further Guidance/Reference**
- GE 700 section C
- FASET 01948 780652 or www.faset.org.uk
- FASET Technical Bulletins
- BS EN 1261 – 1 & 2

**OPERATION – INSTALLATION & USE OF SAFETY NETS CHECKLIST**

Project:

Contract No: Date:

Name of Person Undertaking check or safety monitoring:

| | Check | Complete | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Is the company erecting the Safety Nets a FASET Member Company (see www.faset.org.uk Members Page)<br><br>Do the operatives installing the nets have the appropriate CSCS Safety Net Rigger Card<br>See http://www.faset.org.uk/training-rigging-qualifications.htm | ✓<br><br>✓ | ×<br><br>× |
| 2. | Does each safety net have identification labels affixed detailing:-<br>Unique serial number?<br>Confirmation that the net conforms to BS EN 1263-1?<br>The date that the next annual test is due?<br>Has a representative sample of nets been checked for compliance? | ✓ | × |
| 3. | Are the safety nets secured to structural members at maximum 2.5m centres? (See notes about attachment device spacing above)? | ✓ | × |
| 4. | Are the safety nets secured to the structural members by the Border cord that runs around the perimeter of each net? | ✓ | × |
| 5. | Are all gaps between safety nets less than 100mm? | ✓ | × |
| 6. | Are gaps between safety nets and localised obstructions no more than 225mm? | ✓ | × |
| 7. | Are the safety nets installed as close as possible to the working platform?<br>***NB***: Nets should never be more than 2m below the working level. | ✓ | × |
| 8. | Is there a minimum of 3m clearance distance under the net?<br>Ensure plant and materials or protruding scaffold standards.<br>Do not compromise 3m clearance distance unless it can be proven to comply with the table given in the FASET Safety Net Inspectors Manual. | ✓ | × |
| 9. | Are all joints in nets in accordance with the guidelines provided? | ✓ | × |
| 10. | Are all repairs to safety nets neat and tidy with information available on who carried out the repair and the date the repair was affected? | ✓ | × |
| 11. | Have handover certificates been provided for the safety net installation? | ✓ | × |
| 12. | Are arrangements in place for on-going inspecting and monitoring of the nets? | ✓ | × |

**Signature** ……

**Date** ……