



# GUIDANCE

## SAFE ACCESS DURING PLANT EXAMINATION

**Number:** HSC 05

**Prepared by:** Health and Safety Committee (TC9)

**Status:** Issue 02

**Date:** 28/04/16

**Reference:** Work at Height Regulations 2005

### SITUATION:

During the course of completing a thorough examination of plant, Engineer Surveyors will encounter situations where access equipment is required to enable them to examine all parts of the plant safely.

Access equipment will vary in nature and may be required for relatively low level access. With equipment coming within statutory Regulation for thorough examination, it is a legal requirement for the owner/user to provide means of access to complete the thorough examination in safety. If the owner/user does not provide suitable access equipment then the Engineer Surveyor will be unable to complete a report of thorough examination and the plant will not be able to be used until the thorough examination is completed.

### GUIDANCE:

- 1.1 Where permanent access equipment is not installed, the owner/user is responsible for providing the Engineer Surveyor with suitable access equipment to complete his examination e.g.:
  - Scaffolding
  - Scaffold towers.
  - Mobile Elevating Working Platform.
- 1.2 Access equipment (Scaffolding, scaffold tower etc.) must be shown to have been erected and inspected by a competent person e.g. with an in-date scaftag.
- 1.3 Mobile elevating working platforms must have a current report of thorough examination and be operated by a competent and authorised person.
- 1.4 The use of ladders or steps must be justified on the basis that:-
  - The use of safer access equipment is not technically feasible
  - The work is low risk and short duration
  - The user can maintain three points of contact with the ladder at all times
  - The equipment must meet an appropriate British or European Standard, have been inspected, be in good condition and be suitably secured.