



Soft Landing Bag Systems Standards

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1. Introduction

The purpose of these soft landing bag systems standards is to give management at all levels guidance of when soft landing bag systems (SLBS) can be used, it will outlay the requirements for use, including training and when it is acceptable for them to be used.

SLBS should not be the first choice when fall protection is required. Measures such as scaffold or safety decking systems should be the first choice, as they eliminate the fall, whereas using a SLBS will only minimise the consequences of a fall.

A single layer of bags will protect persons from a fall of up to 2.5 meters, if the fall height is greater than 2.5 meters an additional layer of bags may need to be installed. You must check with the manufacturer the maximum permitted fall height.

2. When can SLBS be used?

Only when all other methods of preventing a fall from height have been exhausted then SLBS can be used. The lower cost of using these must never be a factor as to why they are chosen. The use of SLBS must either be approved by the local Group HS&E Advisor or approved for use by HS&E Department guidance.

3. Risk assessment

If SLBS are to be used then this must be annotated on the working at height assessment (form 038) or on a separate risk assessment.

4. Training requirements

Anyone that installs the SLBS must be trained and this training must be carried out by the supplier of the SLBS. Site management must also be trained to fit them in order that they can inspect them once they have been fitted. The bags must be fitted according to the manufacturer's guidance. Copies of training certificates must be readily available for inspection on site.

5. Inspection requirements

The SLBS must be inspected and signed off by the person responsible for fitting them using the Soft Landing Bags Inspection Register before use. Site management must inspect the SLBS and complete the register before use and every seven days. Also after any accident or near miss accident, alternation or adverse weather that effects the SLBS condition.

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Refer to HSMS form [019J](#) – Soft Landing Bags Inspection Register

6. **Storage and inspecting the SLBS**

SLBS must be stored undercover as they can be susceptible to damage from the weather. The bags must be inspected annually by the manufacturer and inspected by the installer each time they are fitted, damaged bags must never be used.

7. **Monitoring**

Site management monitors the safe use of safety SLBS daily site checks. The Group HS&E Department monitors compliance with these standards via regular site HS&E inspections.

8. **Further reading**

Bull Safety Products

<https://www.bullproducts.co.uk/test-impact-bull/>

<https://www.bullproducts.co.uk/products/fall-arrest/impact-bull-air-cushion/>

<https://www.bullproducts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/1Impact-Bull-User-Manual.pdf>

<https://www.bullproducts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2Impact-Bull-Installation-Method.pdf>

Forrest Soft Landing Systems

<https://www.forestgroupuk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Standard-Bag-Installation-Guide-D-Ring.pdf>

<https://www.forestgroupuk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Standard-bag-installation.pdf>

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