



Working at Height Roofs (working on)

Audience: Site Operatives

Presenter: GHSEA, Site Manager, Trade Supervisors



Working on and from roofs

Working on roofs during the construction of new build properties is unavoidable, there are many serious incidents each year which involve the deaths or serious injury of construction workers which are avoidable. All operatives must follow their RAMS and highlight any safety issues to supervisors or site managers promptly.



Prior to constructing the roof

The site management and operatives carrying out the work must ensure that the following safety measures are in place:

- The scaffold is within the 7 day statutory inspection;
- The scaffold platform is clean and free from debris;
- The scaffold working lift (top) is fitted with brick guards;
- The scaffold working platform is no more than 450mm below the wall plate;
- There is no fall risk greater than 900mm;
- Safety decking or a birdcage scaffold is in place internally;
- A loading bay is available;
- Table/gable lifts are installed, with internal hand rails fitted, which are high enough not to impinge the operative when they need to load out on the opposite side from the loading bay;
- The work at height assessment is being followed; and
- Rubbish chutes or tipping skips are available to safely remove waste materials.

The carpenter contractors must ensure that they have the following in place:

- A set of RAMS is on site that the operatives have read and signed;
- The operatives are experienced and qualified;
- Supervision is in place;
- Crane slingers and banksmen are trained and qualified;
- Where applicable, a lifting plan has been written by an Appointed Person and a lift supervisor is controlling the crane lift; and
- Operatives are trained to use nail guns and that they have the correct PPE.



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Tiling the roof

Prior to tiling of the roof the following safety measures must be in place (in addition to the measures set out for roof construction):

- Up and over (double guard rail) gable edge protection is in place; and
- The safety deck or a birdcage scaffold remains in position until the roof has been fully felted and battened. Best practice would keep this in place until the roof has been fully tiled.

The roof tiling contractors must ensure that they have the following in place:

- A set of RAMS is on site that the operatives have read and signed;
- The operatives are experienced and qualified;
- Supervision is in place;
- If nail guns are used then the operatives must be trained and have the correct PPE;
- The operatives wear correct PPE and never wear training shoes on roofs, safety footwear, hi-vis and hard hats must always be worn;
- When cutting roof tiles water suppression must be used in conjunction with an FFP3 face fit tested mask by the person cutting and anyone in the cut zone;
- Fuel cans are not permitted on the scaffold, refuelling of saws must be carried out on the ground away from the structure;
- Sacrificial boards must be used to prevent scaffold boards being cut or damaged from disk cutters; and
- Waste roof battens cut down small enough as not to block the rubbish chutes, or longer pieces place on a pallet and removed by the telehandler.



Tiling dormers

Most of the dormers come pre tiled; however, occasionally it is required to fit dormers that are not tiled. In this case a scaffold platform must be erected for the roofers to work safely and prevent a fall from height.



Fitting solar panels

These will be fitted by a specialist contractor, with site management ensuring all the general safety measures for constructing the roof is in place. The contractor must work in accordance with their RAMS.