



HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

Internal Fall Protection for Roofers

WHAT HAPPENED

A roofer was working on a felt and battened roof loading out roof tiles. He stepped onto the batten between the roof trusses, the batten has snapped under his weight and he has fallen through the roof.

He struck part of the truss on his way down and landed on the first floor due to the safety deck being removed. He fell approximately 5 meters.

The National Federation of Roofing Contractors guidance is that internal fall protection is not removed until it is safe to do so; until the roofing works have been completed, but as a minimum when the roof has been felted, battened and completely loaded out.

WHO NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION: Contracts Managers, SMs/ ASMs, Site Agents and Roofers

WHAT TO DO

- The internal fall protection (safety decking/ scaffold bird cage) must be left in place until the roof has been felted, battened and loaded out with the roof tiles. If possible left in, until the tiles have been hung/laid and the roof is complete.
- The roofers must check that internal fall protection is in place before they carry out works and report any deficiencies to the site management.
- If the roof tiles are not immediately available, then the internal fall protection can be removed but must be re-installed when the roof is ready to be tiled.