

# Working at Heights and Fall Prevention Standard

AGL-HSE-STD-007.2.1

The scope of this standard applies to all AGL employees, contractors and visitors engaging in work at heights where potential exists for the fall of a person or object.

The Working at Heights and Fall Prevention Methodology AGL-HSE-SDM-007.2.1 provides further explanation of how to achieve the minimum controls.

*The underlined minimum controls below have been identified as being critical controls.*

STD Ref No.	Minimum Controls
<b>General Fall Prevention</b>	
<u>7.2.1.1</u>	<p><u>A risk assessment must be completed for all work where there is a risk of fall from one level to another that is reasonably likely to result in injury utilising the hierarchy of controls.</u></p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>In or on an elevated workplace;</u></li> <li>• <u>In the vicinity of an opening through which a person could fall;</u></li> <li>• <u>On a surface through which someone could fall; and</u></li> <li>• <u>In any other place where someone could fall.</u></li> </ul>
<u>7.2.1.2</u>	<p><u>All work where there is a risk of a fall that is reasonably likely to result in injury must utilise the fall prevention hierarchy of controls.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Elimination (e.g. Work is carried out on the ground or on a solid construction);</u></li> <li>• <u>Safe System of Work, including:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Fall Prevention Device (e.g. installing guard rails);</u></li> <li>○ <u>Work Positioning System (e.g. an industrial rope access system); and</u></li> <li>○ <u>Fall Arrest System (e.g. any plant or material designed to arrest a fall).</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<u>7.2.1.3</u>	<p><u>All work where there is a risk of fall of greater than 2 metres must apply physical controls that prevent a person from falling or are designed to arrest a fall.</u></p>
<b>Falling Objects</b>	
7.2.1.4	<p>Controls must be implemented to manage the risk of dropped/falling objects, these may include exclusion zones, netting, and securing of equipment/hand tools as per Dropped Objects Standard (AGL-HSE-SDM-007.2.2).</p>
<b>Ladders</b>	
7.2.1.5	<p>Ladders must be considered as a means of access and not as a work platform. Only platform ladders with edge protection and guard rails should be used for working off.</p>
7.2.1.6	<p>Ladders must only be used for access or short duration tasks where the work can be done while maintaining 3 points of contact.</p>

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7.2.1.7	All ladders used must be manufactured for industrial use, inspected, and tagged annually, documented in a register and an inspection by the operator must occur prior to use.
7.2.1.8	Only non-conductive ladders must be used during electrical tasks.
<b>Mobile / Elevated Work Platforms</b>	
7.2.1.9	Before operating a MEWP in, around or near fixed structures, the risk of crush must be eliminated where practicable to do so with a risk assessment.
7.2.1.10	Where the risk of incidents can not be reasonably eliminated or substituted with other alternatives, engineering controls like operator protective devices - physical barriers, pressure sensing devices and/or proximity sensing devices must be implemented.
<u>7.2.1.11</u>	<u>Mobile and Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP/EWP) operated over 11 metres must only be operated by a person with a high-risk work licence.</u> For MEW/EWP less than 11 metres, training including verification of competency is required prior to operating.
7.2.1.12	Access and egress from the work platform shall only be from fit for purpose access/egress positions that have formally been risk assessed unless the MEWP/EWP is in an emergency or breakdown situation.
7.2.1.13	Employees working in travel towers, boom lifts or cherry pickers must wear an Australian Standard compliant fall arrest/restraint device connected to a dedicated anchor point. . A handrail is not to be used as an anchor point. Where there is a risk of a free fall, a fall-arrest harness designed for attachment to a lanyard assembly, including a personal energy absorber, must be worn.
7.2.1.14	Barriers must be approved by a registered engineer or fitted by OEM (original equipment manufacturer).
7.2.1.15	Spotters must be used where an MEWP operator is unable to judge distances, see the pathway of the MEWP or there are structures or plant in the vicinity of the work being carried out.
7.2.1.16	A spotter must be trained in the use of the ground controls, emergency procedures and potential hazards related to the MEWP.
<b>Scaffold</b>	
<u>7.2.1.17</u>	<u>All scaffolding over 4 metres must be erected by a licenced installer (scaffolder).</u>
<u>7.2.1.18</u>	<u>Scaffolding must be inspected and signed off by a licenced scaffolder monthly or following any event where the stability may have been affected.</u>
7.2.1.19	Control measures, such as barriers and warning signs must be used to prevent unauthorised access when the scaffold is left unattended, incomplete or not inspected.

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<b>Workboxes</b>	
7.2.1.20	The use of work cages (safety cages / man cages) with forklifts for working at heights activities is <b>prohibited</b> across all AGL sites. Forklifts are primarily intended for lifting materials not people.
<b>Fall Restraint Equipment</b>	
<u>7.2.1.21</u>	<u>Where fall arrestors are used there must be a documented recovery rescue plan.</u>
7.2.1.22	All fall arrest and prevention devices including harnesses and anchor points must be inspected and certified in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the relevant standards.
<b>Emergency Response and Rescue Procedures</b>	
7.2.1.23	Before commencing any working at heights, an emergency/rescue plan must be prepared.
<b>Training and Competency</b>	
<u>7.2.1.24</u>	<u>All work at heights must be undertaken by personnel who have been accredited in RIIWHS204 - Work safely at heights. The training course is to be administered and accredited by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and delivery by a qualified trainer and assessor.</u>

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