

USSL Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment No		58		Activity		Working at Height Using Ladders and Stepladders.		Locations		Site Works		
Assessment Undertaken by		M. Watson		Assessment Date		Jun-17		Review Date		1/6/18		
Risk Ratings												
Persons at risk (PAR)		Severity / Harm Rating (S)				Likelihood (L)						
E	Employees / Contractors	1	Negligible injury or no injury				1	Extremely unlikely to occur at any time				
P	Members of Public	2	Minor injury requiring First Aid				2	A rare combination of factors would be required for an incident to occur				
V	Visitors	3	Lost time injury				3	Could happen, but considered unlikely under normal circumstances				
C	Clients	4	Single serious injury or single death				4	Not certain, but an additional factor may result in an incident				
		5	Multiple deaths and or serious injuries				5	Almost inevitable that an incident will result - Highly likely to occur				
Tolerance rating												
15 - 25		DANGER - Task/activity should not proceed. Further control measures are to be put in place to reduce risk. When in place the level of risk should be re-assessed for adequacy before the work recommences.										
7 - 14		SIGNIFICANT RISK is attached to this task/activity. Look critically at ways of reducing the level of risk to a more tolerable level by improving existing control measures or by introducing new controls.										
1 - 6		TOLERABLE RISK - Consider if risk is "as low as reasonably practicable", if not try to reduce risk further by improving control measures. Keep under review and continue with task/activity, but with caution										
NB. Full PPE will be utilised as a matter of course during any works undertaken												
Initial Assessment No controls						Risk Mitigation Measures						
Item No	Hazard Identification	PAR	S	L	Score	Control Measures	S	L	Revised Score	Risk Acceptable		
1	Defective Ladders, Fall from Height.	E	4	5	20	Only class 1 (Industrial) Ladders and Stepladders are to be used. Ladders should be used primarily for access to a place of work. Ladders to be used for short duration work only (30 minutes or less) where the load to be handled is under 10kg. Consider alternative means Scaffold, Mobile Tower etc. Inspect ladders for defects prior to use. Do not use painted ladders. Ensure ladder has an identification mark or number. Check for damage or worn stiles particularly at the head and foot of the ladder. Check for broken, missing, loose, or worn rungs. Ensure there is no warping sagging or distortion. Ensure any fitting e.g. tie wires, hinges, pulleys etc are free from all defects. Ensure any fitted rubber feet are not missing and are in good condition. Damaged ladders should be removed from service for disposal. Do not use defective equipment and do not attempt any repair.	4	2	8	Yes		
2	Carrying Ladders: Obstacles, Manual Handling Injuries, Slips Trips Falls, Electrocutation from Overhead Power Lines,	E	4	4	16	Assess weight and length of ladder before lifting. Ensure route of travel is clear of all slips, trips, fall hazards. Short ladders should be carried vertically against the shoulder using the other hand to hold the stile. Longer ladders should be carried horizontally by two people taking care when negotiating obstacles and turning corners. When working in the vicinity of electrical installations, timber ladders should be used instead of aluminium types. Do not carry ladders in the vicinity of overhead power lines.	4	2	8	Yes		
3	Erecting and Lowering Ladders. Manual Handling injuries, falling ladder, impact with persons and objects	E,P	4	4	16	- Ensure immediate area is free from obstructions. - Short ladders should be raised by placing the foot of the ladder against a wall or fixture and pushing the ladder upwards starting at the top, walking and raising the ladder as you go. - Longer ladders should be raised by two persons.	4	1	4	Yes		
4	Siting and Securing the Ladder.	E	4	4	16	Ensure Ladder is set on a firm level base, strong enough to support the ladder and any load that may be placed on it. Do not use bricks, blocks or timber packing to gain extra length or to level up the stiles. Ladders should be sited clear of any excavation and in such a place that they will not cause a hazard, or placed where they may be struck or dislodged. Barriers or appropriate signage may need to be posted around the work. Do not lean ladders against fragile surfaces Ladders should be set at an angle of 75 degrees or 1 length out to 4 rung up. Ladders should extend at least 1m above the landing place or work area. Ladders should be secured to a structure around the stile and not the rungs. Longer ladders over 6m should also be tied at the mid point to help prevent sway. If ladders are over 9m, safe landing areas or rest platforms need to be provided. Do not place ladders adjacent to scaffold tubes this may interfere with the footing of the person on the ladder.	4	2	8	Yes		
5	Use of Ladders, Overreaching, inappropriate footwear, incorrect re-positioning of the ladder, tiredness, fall from height	E	4	5	20	Ensure footwear has adequate grip. Only one person at a time should climb the ladder. Always face the ladder when climbing or descending the ladder. 3 points of contact must be maintained at all times. Tools/ materials should be carried in a shoulder bag or be hoisted up when in position. Tools and paint tins etc should be hooked or otherwise secured to the ladder when not in use. Do not reposition the ladder by jumping while standing on the rungs. Remember do not overreach, climb down and reposition the ladder. The ladder user should take regular breaks as tiredness is a danger. DO NOT use the ladder in severe weather conditions. e.g. high winds, ice, snow etc.	4	2	8	Yes		
6	Use of stepladder, Overreaching, inappropriate footwear, incorrect re-positioning of the ladder, tiredness, fall from height	E	4	5	20	The inspection and storage of stepladders is similar to normal ladders as outlined in the other steps. Ensure stepladders are stable when opened and sited on a level base. Ensure the legs are positioned as far as the retaining cord or hinges will allow, with all 4 legs firmly and squarely on the ground. Always position stepladder front on to the job. DO NOT stand on the top 2 rungs of the stepladder unless a suitable handrail is provided. (Check manufactures instructions). DO NOT OVERREACH.	4	2	8	Yes		
7	Storage of Ladders	E	4	3	12	Wooden ladders need to be stored indoors, wooden ladders will deteriorate when exposed to the weather for long periods of time. Ladders should be cleaned and any contamination removed, e.g mud, grease. Ladders should be stored on racks, supported on the stiles sufficiently to prevent sagging. DO NOT hang ladders from the rungs. Aluminium ladders should be stored away from lime and cement as this may cause corrosion.	4	1	4	Yes		