

Produced by the Access Industry Forum (AIF), EPF and FASET, and supported by the Home Builders Federation.
IMPORTANT NOTE: Toolbox Talks are not intended to replace formal training but to supplement it.

TEMPORARY EDGE PROTECTION INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

What is the risk?

Temporary edge protection is used to prevent people and objects from falling to a lower level from sloped or flat working surfaces (such as roof edges, floor edges, stairs and voids).

The integrity of an edge protection system can only be ensured if it is installed by competent operatives and then inspected regularly by properly trained and competent system inspectors.

Inspection frequency

How often should Edge Protection Systems be inspected and why?

- Prior to handover;
- Pre-use check;
- After every seven days;
- Following adverse weather;
- Following an incident (such as accidental loading).

Without regular and thorough inspection, the integrity of an edge protection system cannot be ensured and may result in an unsafe system being used which does not properly protect the operative.

What makes inspection a requirement?

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 require you to inspect Edge Protection Systems:

Regulation 12

- Requires all components to be installed correctly, which can only be checked by a pre-handover inspection;
- Requires an inspection if the system has deteriorated, such as tampering, removal, wear or the effects of adverse weather;
- Requires inspection at suitable intervals, which the EPF and FASET suggest should be at least every seven days, or sooner if recommended by the manufacturer / designer.

Good practice - and why inspection is important...



Regular inspections, carried out by competent system inspectors, can highlight hazards that may otherwise have gone unnoticed and that pose a serious risk to operatives.



A simple message:
Those responsible for inspecting edge protection systems must be properly trained to do so.



5 KEY POINTS

1. Edge protection systems should be formally inspected (at minimum every 7 days) by a competent person
2. Understand when to inspect systems
3. Always carry out a pre-handover inspection
4. Always carry out an inspection if the system has been subject to deterioration
5. Inspections are a regulatory requirement

Useful references:

- BS EN 13374: The Standard for Temporary Edge Protection Systems
- epf-uk.org/industry-guidance
- faset.org.uk/guidance