

The Safe Use of Mobile Access Towers



Ver: 0418

Key Legislation

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 - employers must provide:

- safe equipment and safe systems of work
- a safe workplace
- the necessary Instruction, Training, Information and Supervision

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 - employees must:

- take care of their own safety and that of others
- use equipment according to instructions and as per training



The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) – access towers must be:

- suitable for the work they are provided to do and where they are to be used
- maintained and inspected
- used only by employees who have had the appropriate training
- be provided with the necessary information to ensure their safe use

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 – requires that:

- users of mobile access towers are competent
- the correct equipment is selected and used correctly
- a risk assessment has been completed for work at height activities
- the work at height hierarchy of controls has been followed
 - **avoid** work at height where possible;
 - where not possible, **prevent** falls by using an existing safe place or suitable access equipment with built-in fall prevention measures e.g. guardrails;
 - where a fall cannot be prevented, **minimise** the distance and consequences of a fall

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Do

- ✓ Read and understand the manufacturer's instruction manual (MIM)
- ✓ Carry out a pre-use inspection of the components
- ✓ Check that the ground is capable of taking the combined weight of the tower, persons and materials.
- ✓ Build the tower according to the MIM
- ✓ Use the '3T' or 'advance guardrail' method of construction
- ✓ Level the base using the adjustable legs
- ✓ Climb the inside of the tower using the method provided by the manufacturer
- ✓ Lift items within the effective base area of the tower
- ✓ Apply the brakes, unless the tower is being moved
- ✓ Fit the stabilisers at the earliest opportunity
- ✓ Use additional compatible components to increase the height of the tower
- ✓ Follow the bracing pattern as instructed by the manufacturer
- ✓ Use toe-boards on working platforms



Do not

- ✗ Use faulty tower components
- ✗ Stand on an unprotected platform
- ✗ Move the tower with persons or materials on the platform
- ✗ Use the adjustable legs to increase the height of the tower
- ✗ Tie-in or brace a tower without first checking with the manufacturer
- ✗ Work near overhead power lines
- ✗ Climb the outside of a tower
- ✗ Climb using the frame rungs unless they are spaced at 230-300mm and are anti-slip
- ✗ Use castors on soft ground
- ✗ Move the tower using mechanical means
- ✗ Pull yourself along from the top of the tower
- ✗ Use the tower components in a manner not intended by the manufacturer

