

The Safe Use of Tallescope



Ver: 0125

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) – **Tallescope** 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
- provided with the necessary information to ensure their safe use

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 – requires that:

- users of Tallescopes are competent
- the correct equipment is selected and used correctly
- work at height activities are properly planned and carried out in a safe manner
- rescue, emergencies and escape has been considered
- work at height is appropriately supervised

The Safe Use of Tallescopes



Ver: 0125

These instructions are specifically applicable to Tallescopes used in indoor theatres and similar premises with horizontal (level) stages.

1. A logbook shall be kept for each Tallescope.
2. At least one technician working on the job shall have been fully trained by a competent body and carry proof of this training in the form of an ID card. When using Tallescopes where the Tallescope will be moved with a person in the basket, the ID card must include the letter 'M'.
3. The Tallescope must be inspected annually; repaired if needed by the manufacturer, or third party; and be certified as in good order.
4. A visual inspection shall be made before each use of the Tallescope. Should there be any fault, the Tallescope shall be taken out of service immediately, labelled as **NOT TO BE USED**, and the defect noted in the logbook.
5. The Tallescope shall be erected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
6. If it is intended to move a Tallescope with a person in the cage;
 - a) The Tallescope shall only be used on a horizontal (flat and level) surface.
 - b) At least one technician shall have proven training (M), this may be the person in the cage.
 - c) There shall be a supervisor in place who is NOT actually moving the Tallescope.
 - d) There shall be no obstructions along the intended route either at stage level or overhead.
 - e) The outriggers shall be locked off just above the floor (maximum 10mm)
 - f) The Tallescope shall only be moved along its 'axis'.
 - g) Movement shall be by pushing or pulling the uprights of the base frames (trunions) and NOT the diagonals.
 - h) The Tallescope shall only be moved slowly and smoothly (0.5m per second (1 mph))
 - i) The Tallescope shall be moved by at least two people. The technician pushing shall confirm that there are no hazards at stage level and the technician pulling shall confirm that there are no overhead hazards.
 - j) The technician in the cage shall hold on with both hands whilst the Tallescope is moving.
 - k) The technician in the cage shall instruct the technicians moving the Tallescope and the instructions are to be acknowledged before movement occurs.
 - l) The castor brakes shall be applied before any work, other than light work (such as focusing luminaries). Any work involving exertion or lateral pressure is NOT light work.
 - m) The details of each job and the personnel involved, must be recorded in the logbook and be signed off by the trained (M) person present.
7. The user should consult section 5 of the *Code of practice for the theatre industry for the selection and use of temporary access equipment for working at height in theatres* (published by the ABTT) for further information on working at heights using Tallescopes.

Safety Rules

-  Level the Tallescope before climbing by adjusting and locking the legs
-  Apply the brakes when ascending/descending and as specified in (l) above
-  Check overhead clearance before tilting the Tallescope into the upright position
-  Check that the central locking hooks are fully engaged and locked
-  Check that the ladder extension hooks have fully engaged a rung
-  Always use the stabilisers – the shortest base dimension should equal one third the platform height
-  The maximum platform load is 115kg (one person)

NEVER USE A DAMAGED OR INCORRECTLY ASSEMBLED TALLESCOPE