

SCU Working at Heights – Field Guide

When is a Permit Required?

- Any work \geq 2 metres above ground/floor.
- Use of EWPs, scaffolds, ladders, rope access, fall arrest.
- Fragile surfaces (e.g. roofs, skylights).
- Attach SCU Permit to Work before starting.

Hierarchy of Control (in order)

- Eliminate – Can the task be done on the ground?
- Prevent – Guardrails, scaffolds, platforms.
- Restrain – Fall restraint system (harness prevents reaching edge).
- Arrest – Fall arrest system (last resort, rescue plan required).

Pre-Start Checklist

- Workers trained & competent (RIIWH5204E, HRW licences as required).
- Risk assessment/SWMS completed and signed.
- Anchorage points certified (15 kN minimum).
- Equipment inspected (harness, lanyard, static lines – tagged & in date).
- Exclusion/drop zones barricaded & signed.
- Weather safe (no high winds/rain; follow EWP manufacturer limits).
- Rescue plan in place (equipment available, standby person ready).


During Work


- Maintain 3 points of contact (ladders/stairs).
- Use dual lanyards when transferring anchor points.
- Tools secured with lanyards/buckets.
- Never work alone unless low-risk and approved.
- Spotter present for EWP operations.

If Using Specific Equipment

- EWPs: Fall restraint harness mandatory; HRW licence >11 m.
- Scaffolds: Must be erected/inspected by licensed scaffolders; tag in place.
- Ladders: Industrial rated (≥ 120 kg); only for access or short light work.

Emergency & Rescue

- Stop work and raise alarm immediately.
- Rescue must be by trained, competent personnel only.
- Consider suspension trauma in fall arrest rescues.
-  If guardrails or prevention are removed – fall protection must be worn within 2 m of edge.

-  All records (permit, SWMS, inspection forms) must be attached and kept in RiskWare.