

# CONSTRUCTION FALLS FROM HEIGHTS BLITZ CHECKLIST

This simplified checklist from our construction blitz on falls from heights can be used by principal contractors and site supervisors to conduct basic inspections to look for common working at heights hazards.

Falls from heights is the biggest killer on NSW construction sites.

Working at heights could mean working as high up as a multi-storey building, or as low down as the second rung of a ladder.

In fact, most fatal and serious falls occur from a height of four metres or less.

Principal contractors and builders have a duty to provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risks to health and safety, so far as is reasonably practicable. This includes the provision of safe systems of work and safety equipment when working at heights. If there is a risk of a person falling more than two metres you also need a safe work method statement.

On-the-spot fines of up to \$3,600 may be issued to those placing workers lives at risk by not adequately protecting them when working at heights.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Scaffold		Y / N	N/A
1	Evidence of scaffolding licence, where workers or materials could fall 4 metres or more		
2	All planks and hopups in place (no gaps in decks/platforms)		
3	Edge protection is complete (no missing top rails, mid rails or toe boards)		
4	Adequate access/egress to scaffold decks		
5	Gaps between hopups/decks and building edges no greater than 225mm (horizontal)		
6	Gaps between hopups/decks and building edges no greater than 300mm (vertical)		
7	Scaffold is appropriately supported on ground and tied to the building		
8	Workers have been advised the scaffold must not be altered by unlicensed persons		
9	An adequate <u>handover certificate</u> has been provided by the scaffolder		
10	Loads placed on the scaffold are within its duty rating		
Voids and edges		Y / N	N/A
11	Voids covered, secured and marked, or physical barriers in place		
12	Adequate system in place for access/egress between levels		
13	Roof rails or perimeter scaffolding in place for roofing works		
14	Edges adequately protected to prevent falls (scaffold or guarding)		
15	Excavations and pits adequately secured to prevent falls (fencing, covers, barriers)		
16	Controls in place to prevent falls through fragile/brittle roofs such as asbestos, plastic roof sheeting and skylights (eg roof mesh, barriers, exclusion zones)		

Formwork		Y / N	N/A
17	Formwork components in good order		
18	Adequate access/egress to formwork decks		
19	Adequate systems in place to prevent falls from formwork edges		
20	Systems in place for construction/dismantling of formwork from below		
Ladders		Y / N	N/A
21	Ladders used for appropriate activities		
22	Ladders in good condition and rated for industrial use		
23	Set up correctly (1:4/grounded/tied at top/etc)		
Mobile scaffolds, EWPS and fall arrest/restraints		Y / N	N/A
24	Mobile scaffolds located on firm ground with no missing components		
25	Elevating work platforms (EWP) are suitable and maintained in good working order		
26	Boom type elevating work platform (WP) high risk work licence held, where boom length is 11 metres or more		
27	Anchorage, harnesses and lanyards meet Australian standards, are in good order and within the manufacturers remove from service date		
28	Evidence of training for use of harnesses and associated equipment		
Documentation		Y / N	N/A
29	Safe work method statements (SWMS) available for high risk work		
30	Induction records for site (including induction of SWMS)		
31	Plant maintenance records are available		
32	Emergency control plan in place		
Consultation		Y / N	N/A
33	Toolbox talks and site meetings are occurring in relation to work health and safety matters that affect those workers		

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### GUIDANCE:

- [Pocket guide to construction safety](#) - or order your weatherproof flip book with safety checklists from the publications hotline 1300 799 003
- [Scaffold handover certificate example template](#)
- [Scaffold safety checklist](#) for site supervisors
- [Falls from heights poster](#) - Arabic, Chinese simplified
- [Erecting, altering and dismantling scaffolds](#)

### CODES OF PRACTICE:

- [Managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#)
- [Managing the risks of falls in housing construction](#)
- [Construction work](#)
- [Work near overhead powerlines](#)

For further information see [www.safework.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 10 50

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