

The EU Temporary Working at Height Directive 2001/45/EC

Costs - £49.4m per year ([Open Europe](#))

Talking Points

Costs to window cleaning

The provision in the regulations that meant work that can be done at ground level changed the window cleaning industry towards utilising more 'water fed pole' methods of cleaning. No doubt this added costs to window cleaners through purchasing water-fed poles for cleaning as the regulations forced work at ground level when it can be done at ground level. ([Professional Window Cleaner](#))

Inflexible

Stoke on Trent Council revealed it has spent £1.4m on scaffolding to ensure it complies with proper health and safety procedures for working at height. This involved putting up scaffolding to change light bulbs at the council after a risk assessment on the height of light fixtures. ([Daily Express](#))

What is it?

A directive to set down minimum health and safety standards for using equipment to work at height. Also, if work can be done without being done on a ladder, then it must be done at ground level.

Transposition of the directive into UK regulations applies to all workplace environments where personal harm could be caused by a fall.

These regulations place specific duties on employers, the self employed and anyone who controls the work of another.

The Health and Safety Executive summarises the duties as following:

- all work at height is properly planned and organised;
- those involved in work at height are competent;
- the risks from work at height are assessed and appropriate work equipment is selected and used;
- the risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled; and
- equipment for work at height is properly inspected and maintained.

These provisions do not apply to sport, climbing or caving.

Third Party Opinions:

“It’s nonsense. Pensioners whose lights have gone outside their homes have had to wait for scaffolding.” [Independent City Councillor, Dave Conway, on Stoke City Council.](#)