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### **HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2006.**



#### **WHY IS IT SO HARD TO WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ON SITE?**

The correct work boots – properly toe protected – saves being crippled for life.

The hard hat actually does work, you know, and stops you being cracked into a coma!

Construction materials are dangerous – the right gloves worn when handling chemicals, wet cement sharp edges ..... stops skin cancer, cuts, loss of fingers .....

A reflective jacket gets you SEEN – vital whilst site machinery manoeuvres near by; while cranes move stock around; when ever there is movement you should be noticed – or face up to an accident!

Protective glasses, goggles and masks do save the loss of eyes – proven!!

Of course – YOU are immortal!!



Ladders, step ladders and milk crates (universally utilised by plasterers!) are the biggest cause of site and work hazards – being unstable at the best of times they contribute massively to notified accidents ... and yet .... we blindly use the damn things without any assessment of the risks to our health or of our team members.

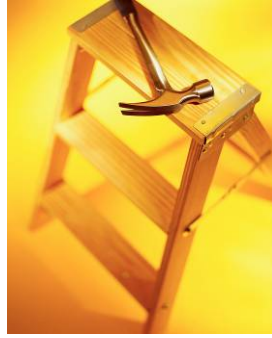
On the huge Terminal 5 project at Heathrow, as Project Managers, we were instructed that under no circumstances were we to use step ladders and only to use ladders if there was no room to erect an alloy tower system – the work still went on time, to budget and without any trip or fall hazards ... so it can be done!!

Assess your workplace and look at ways to reduce climbing at height – can that stock be placed lower – can a stable platform be better used rather than steps or ‘temporary’ access – can the job be done safer??

#### **“AN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND SPECIALISTS”**

Registered in England No 3650082 Reg Office: 1 Forge Hill, Kent TN25 7DT UK Office (CoSec) UK VAT Reg 725 2570 43

Directors: J.F. Ridgway (Managing) C. Rodgers (Company Secretary)



Add to my 'beef' about step ladders – work place 'tidiness' is now at an all time low!

Cluttered aisles, around desks and work stations; electric leads running like wild spaghetti across floors and under tables; tools and materials scattered around sites just inviting trips, falls and accidents.

Come on – get a grip!

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RIGHT! – I've got you wearing the right gear, stopped you killing yourself by falling off that ladder, cleaned up your work place – yippee do!!

The next thing is: Are you actually competent to do the job anyway??!

As a manager, director, foreman or project leader it is **ESSENTIAL** that you assess the work ahead and ensure that experienced and trained personnel are in the right place, doing the right job correctly – yet how often do we take valuable time to assess the situation in hand? Hardly never!!

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Keep on top of the job!!

*Be Safe! Jerry Ridgway*

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