

Date: 8th November 2006

SAFETY BRIEFING – RAIL ACCESS DIVISION

FALL RESTRAINT HARNESES

Each Access Platform operator is issued with a full body harness and a 1 metre long lanyard to secure the harness wearer to the designated point within the basket.

The wearing of these harnesses is not optional, but is compulsory, regardless of the worksite you are working on or the Customer's Policy on harness wearing. By not choosing to wear the harness you are making a conscious decision to place yourself at risk, which is unacceptable. The harness shall be worn at ALL TIMES when you are in the basket.

Any person found not wearing the harness shall be issued with a verbal warning on the spot, with a written warning to formalise this immediately after. A second instance of such a practice being observed will result in the PTS Sponsorship of that person being removed and hence the ability to work on Rail Access Platforms for the foreseeable future. With PTS Sponsorship removed the ability to work on any Rail machine on the infrastructure will also be prohibited.

This is a very serious matter as a fall from even a relatively low height can have disastrous consequences. This ruling is backed by the CPA and IPAF who have worked with the HSE to ensure that this becomes policy for the industry. Stickers as can be seen below are being circulated to IPAF members.



As we have seen recently, even a fall from 2m high can result in major injuries, don't let that be you.

Andy Young
SHEQ Director