

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires a Safe Place at Work at all times and this includes safe access and egress to and from the place of work i.e. the roof. The Construction Regulations are precise in that no one shall pass across, or work on, a 'fragile' roof.

Fragile roofs must, by law, have a warning notice conspicuous to any person likely to go on them, but do not assume

because there is no notice that it is OK It may have blown away.

### Roof work Rules

1. Always identify the type of roof construction and covering before starting work, in case it is fragile.
2. On flat roofs, always stay on the marked walk ways, if any.
3. Edge protection (guard rails and toe boards) is required if the drop is more than 1.98 meters.

4. Access must be by staircase or 'secured' ladders. Makeshift access, e.g. climbing out of a window, jumping over a gap, balancing on a ledge or parapet etc. is on flat roofs, always stay on the marked walk ways, if any.

5. Edge protection (guard rails and toe boards) is required if the drop is more than 1.98 meters.

6. Access must be by staircase or 'secured' ladders. Makeshift access, e.g. climbing out of a window, jumping over a gap, balancing on a ledge or parapet etc. is not 'safe accesses'.

7. On sloping roofs (10o pitch for walkways, 30o pitch if work place) suitable roof ladders or crawling boards must be provided or other suitable hand hold and foothold.

8. On fragile roofs, suitable roof ladders or crawling boards must be provided, properly secured. Ordinary scaffold boards are not 'suitable'.

9. Think about tools and materials needed on the roof and ensure they are secure both whilst being taken up and whilst being used.

10. Think about others under the roof or below the roof edge. Barrier the area off and put up warning signs in case anything does accidentally drop.

