

SAEMA PRESS RELEASE

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SAEMA Technical Committee Guidance Note Guidance on Connecting Suspended Access Equipment to Buildings and Supporting Structures

The SAEMA Technical Committee has finalised a new guidance document '*Guidance on Connecting Suspended Access Equipment to Buildings and Supporting Structures*'.

Suspended access equipment (SAE) is an often overlooked but essential part of a building's services. A well-designed and maintained system is a cost-effective asset to the building it serves. It is the **duty holder** who is legally responsible for ensuring that SAE is:

- Safe and fit for the purpose for which it was designed
- Properly maintained and examined
- Used by adequately competent and trained operatives

Despite the regulations, codes of practice and guidance notes covering SAE, there remain some important issues, including:

- *Where does SAE stop and the building/structure start?*
- *How is SAE fixed to the building/structure?*
- *How do those involved in maintaining, testing, inspecting and examining SAE gain access for checking the connections of the SAE to the building or structure?*

The guidance aims to answer the questions above, by offering advice on options available and the advantages and disadvantages of each, where appropriate.

SAEMA Chairman Martin Parfett comments:

'SAEMA always advocates consideration of permanent and temporary access equipment at an early stage in the building design process. SAFed provided valuable input into this document and we aim to work together in the future on similar guidance notes.'

SAFed Technical Secretary Peter Wilson comments:

'SAEMA approached us to comment on this document which we were delighted to provide as our members are involved in this area of testing on a regular basis. It is a good example of how trade associations/federations can work together to raise overall standards in any industry.'

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

The Specialist Access Engineering and Maintenance Association (SAEMA) is the national organisation for the permanent and temporary access industry and its members operate throughout the UK and in many cases worldwide.

SAEMA Technical Committee meets 7-8 times annually to discuss technical issues in the industry and works closely with BSI committees.

The Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) represents the UK independent engineering inspection industry, which plays a key role in maintaining high standards of safety within the workplace.

For further information please contact:

Stephen Kennefick
SAEMA
Carthusian Court
12 Carthusian Street
London EC1M 6EZ

Tel: 020 7397 8122
Fax: 020 7397 8121
e-mail: enquiries@saema.org
website: www.saema.org