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SAEMA Position on lone working

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1. Introduction

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 states “It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees”.

Duty Holders have a legal responsibility to ensure that the work is properly planned, appropriately supervised, and carried out in as safe a way as is reasonably practicable.

Further Guidance can be found in HSE guidance note INDG73.

2. SAEMA Position

Due to the nature and risk of the tasks required to complete the testing, inspection, maintenance and thorough examination of suspended access systems, it is the view of SAEMA that the work should be completed by a team of no less than two individuals.

If lone working is to be considered, an individual risk assessment will need to be carried out prior to any work commencing.

Example of control measures may include but not be limited to the following:

- Access to communications
- Automatic warning devices
- Lifting equipment to avoid manual handling
- Periodic checks by an appointed person
- Personal alarms
- Fully edge protected roof area
- Medical vetting