

FASET Bulletin SUP01 (Revision 1)

Supervision and Competence when Installing or Dismantling Temporary Safety Systems

This guidance is written to give clarity on FASET's policy on the competence of individuals to install temporary safety systems such as safety nets for example, and the requirement for suitable supervision of trainees when working on site.

LONE WORKING AND THE SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES

FASET does not accept lone working when installing or dismantling temporary safety systems.

This policy is to ensure trainees are correctly guided during the installation process and that the supervisor can monitor the quality of their work and provide effective rescue when working at height.

FASET defines lone workers as those who work by themselves out of eye and/or earshot of a work colleague, who can effect a rescue. An effective safe method of work and rescue must be in place.



COMPETENCE OF INSTALLERS

FASET do not consider an individual to be technically competent to install temporary safety systems immediately following one of our training courses. The FASET training and competence scheme requires a process of formal assessment following training and supervised onsite experience before an individual is considered competent in the specific discipline. This competence is evidenced by the individual holding the Blue Skilled FASET Card in the specific discipline being considered.

The Work at Height Regulations state that:

*5. — Every employer shall ensure that no person engages in **any activity**, including organisation, planning and supervision, in relation to work at height or work equipment for use in such work unless he is competent to do so or, **if being trained, is being supervised by a competent person.***

Therefore, FASET's position is that there must always be a competent individual on site with qualifications in the discipline being installed. That person is responsible for the adequate supervision of any trainees present on site.

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On-site, in-house guidance from a qualified colleague is invaluable in developing skills of trainees. However, FASET maintains that this shall never be a replacement for formal off-site training.

The Supervisor is responsible and accountable for the actions of the subordinate(s) carrying out this work and will be responsible for the handing-over of the completed works as being compliant.

The Supervisor should be on site during the installation and dismantling of temporary safety systems and be able to **closely monitor** the subordinates work output at the point of work and where appropriate, implement corrective measures. To carry out this supervision remotely or retrospectively is not considered to be good practice.

The ratio of workers to supervisor shall be identified by risk assessment prior to any works proceeding and this shall be agreed by the Principal Contractor and the client.

CLIENTS AND PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Regulation 4 **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015** (CDM 2015) requires clients to make suitable arrangements for managing projects. Supervision is not specifically mentioned, but it has an established function within health and safety management.

Regulation 12, CDM 2015 requires principal contractors to plan, manage and monitor the construction phase of the project and co-ordinate matters relating to health and safety. Supervision is a recognised management tool that contributes to the achievement of this.

By following FASET's approach when considering the installation and dismantling of temporary safety systems, the Client's, Principal Contractors and Contractors responsibilities are likely to be met.

NOTE

For information on who can carry out in use inspection and handover, please consult our technical bulletin - *FASET-SN-18 Safety Net Hand-Over & In Use Inspections by a Competent Person Rev 6, Safety Net Hand-Over & In Use Inspections by a Competent Person*

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