

## Safety Alert

**ARTC No. 128**  
**Issued 19/02/2021**

### Fall from height – ARTC safety alert



An ARTC worker was showing a contractor where to set up cabling in the roof space. Whilst walking on the designated mezzanine walkway in the roof space the worker has stepped through the walkway and the ceiling. Fortunately, only one of the worker's legs has penetrated through the walkway and ceiling. The potential fall risk was approximately 5 metres. The worker was able to remove himself and was not injured but there was potential for significant or fatal injuries.

This incident aligns with our Fatal and Severe Risk 09 – Fall from Heights.

Preliminary investigation found that the flooring of the mezzanine was made of ply-wood.

### **For Action: Risk Control Measures**

ARTC has identified 5 risk control measures for walkways which must be complied with when ARTC workers and contractors access and work in areas where there is a potential risk of falling:

1. **Access and egress** – must have a safe means for people to get to, from and move around the work area, for example ramps, stairways and fixed ladders
2. **Inspection** - must be inspected to ensure that the walkways and work areas are fit for use, free from trip hazards, do not have visible damage (for example mould or water damage)
3. **Load rating** – When determining the loading requirements, it is important to consult a competent structural engineer.
4. **Guard rails** – Must prevent a person falling over edges - Guard rails should incorporate a top rail 900mm to 1100 mm above the working surface and a mid-rail and a toe board.
5. **Materials** - The materials used provide a surface that is structurally capable of supporting workers, materials and any additional loads applied to it, in accordance with AS1657:2018.

Walkways and elevated work areas must be designed and maintained according to the instructions of the architect, engineers, or manufacturer and be built in accordance with AS 1657:2018 - Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders.

If you are unsure if the walkway or elevated work area has been designed and maintained to the standard, please raise the issue by filling out the [COR-FM-042 Hazard Report Form](#)

## Communication and Distribution

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

## Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- ARTCs Fatal and Severe Risks include Fall from height, more information can be found here <https://www.artc.com.au/work/contractors/fatal-and-severe-risks-and-life-saving-behaviours/fall-from-height/>

For further information contact:

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