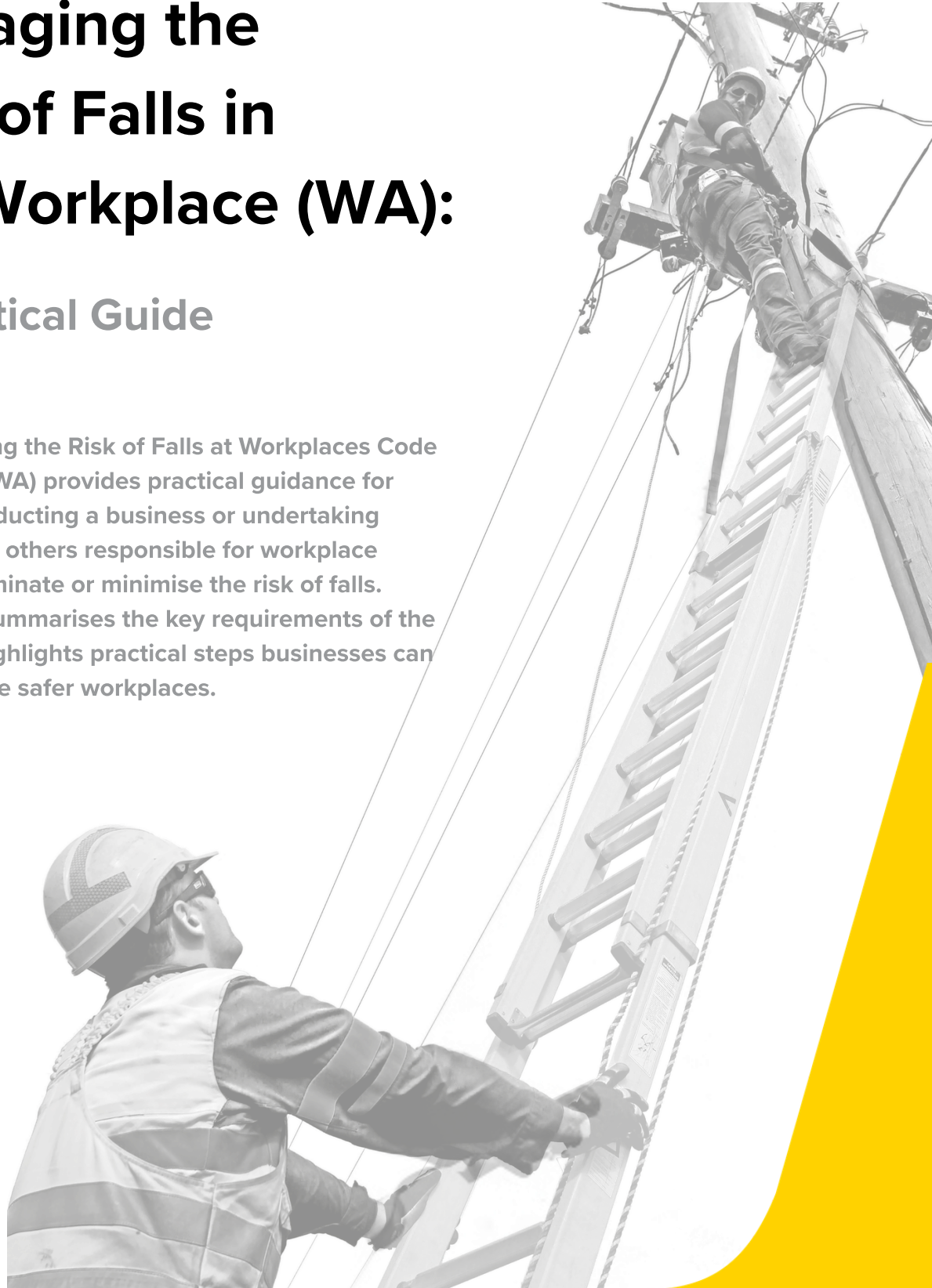

















Managing the Risk of Falls in the Workplace (WA):

A Practical Guide

The Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces Code of Practice (WA) provides practical guidance for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) and others responsible for workplace safety to eliminate or minimise the risk of falls. This guide summarises the key requirements of the Code and highlights practical steps businesses can take to create safer workplaces.



Contents

	What is a Fall	02
	Purpose and Scope	02
	Legal Duties and Responsibilities	03
	Managing the Risk of Falls	04
	1. Identify Hazards	04
	2. Assess the Risks	05
	3. Control the Risks	05-07
	Ladder Safety	08
	Emergency Procedures	09
	Training, Information and Supervision	10
	Consultation and Co-ordination	10
	Design and Planning	11
	Maintenance and Review	11
	Practical Example	12
	Creating Safer Workplaces	13



What is a Fall?

The Code defines a fall as:

“A fall by a person from one level to another.”

This includes any situation where a worker could fall from an elevated surface, platform, ladder, roof, mezzanine or structure and suffer injury.



Purpose and Scope

The **Code of Practice** applies to all workplaces where there is a risk of a person falling from one level to another.

Its purpose is to provide practical guidance on meeting obligations under the **Work Health and Safety Act** and **Work Health and Safety Regulations**, helping duty holders eliminate or minimise fall risks so far as is reasonably practicable.



Legal Duties & Responsibilities

Workplace safety is a shared responsibility.



Persons conducting a business or Undertaking (PCBUs)

PCBUs must, so far as is reasonably practicable:

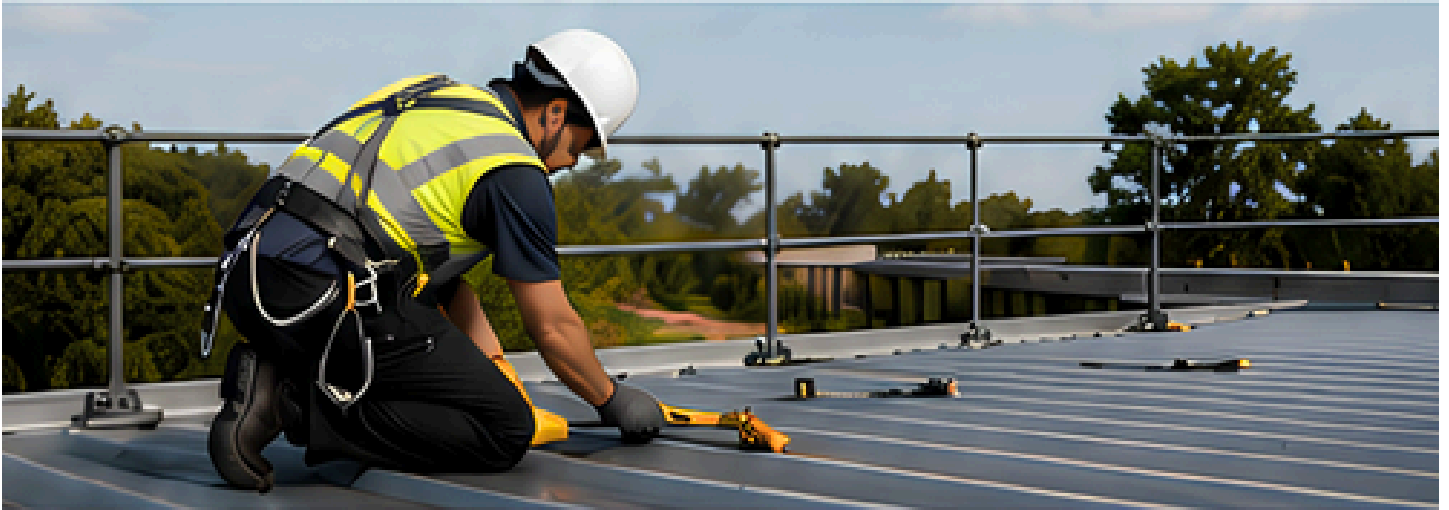
- Eliminate fall risks wherever possible.
- Minimise risks where elimination is not possible.
- Provide safe access and egress.
- Supply appropriate fall protection systems.
- Ensure equipment is maintained.
- Provide suitable training and supervision.





Managing the Risk of Falls

Managing fall risks follows a structured process.



1



Identify Hazards

2



Assess the Risks

3



Control the Risks



Did You Know?

The safest solution is always to eliminate the need to work at height wherever reasonably practicable.

1

Identify Hazards

Inspect the workplace for potential fall hazards, including:

- Roof edges
- Floor openings and penetrations
- Mezzanines
- Fragile surfaces
- Unstable working area
- Elevated platforms
- Ladders
- Excavations

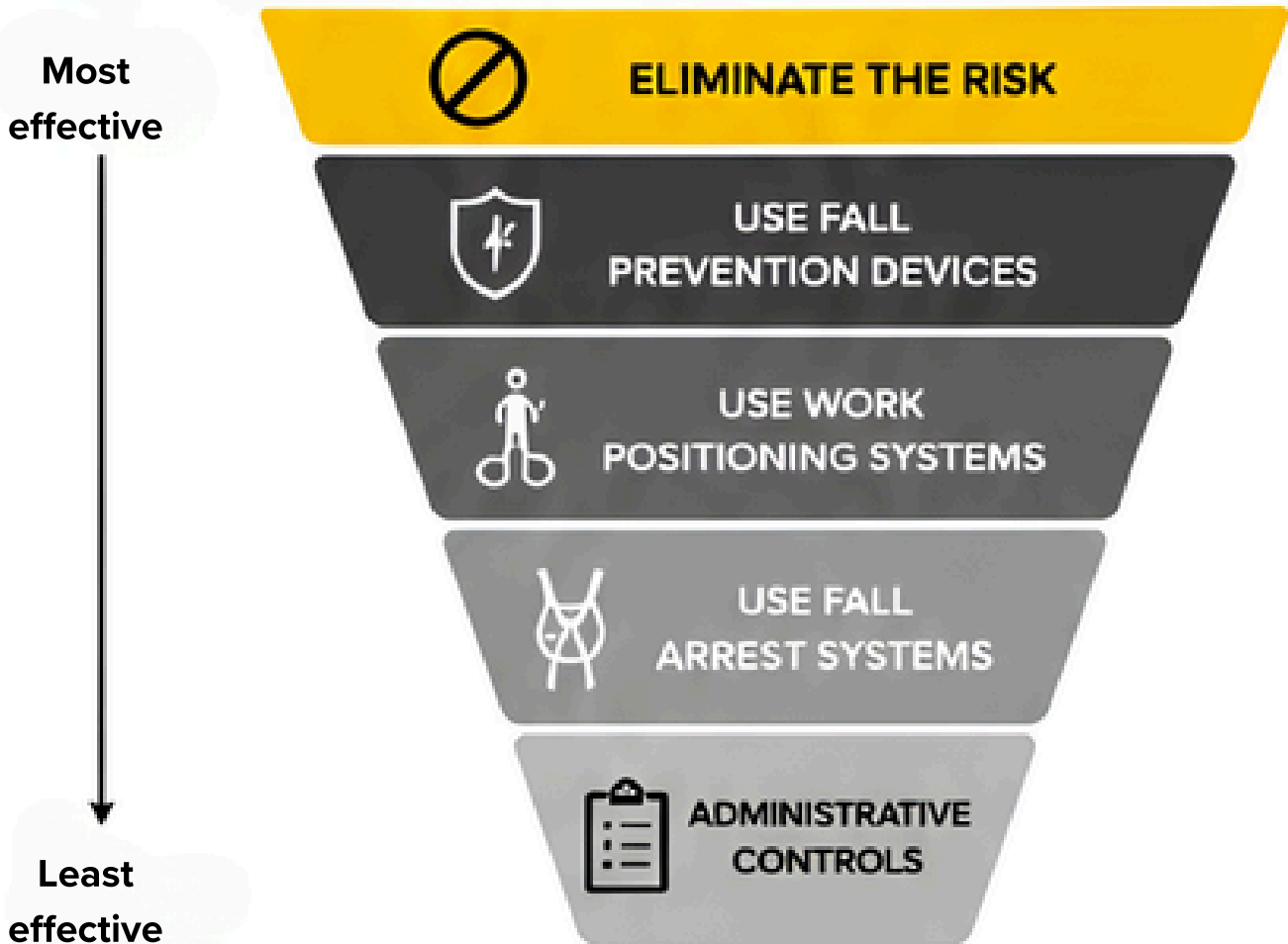
2 Assess the Risks

When assessing risks, consider:

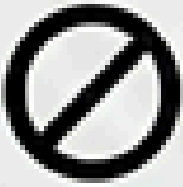
- The likelihood of a fall occurring.
- The potential severity of injury.
- Existing control measures.
- Whether current controls remain effective.

3 Control the Risks

The Code recommends applying the Hierarchy of Controls, beginning with the most effective solutions.



3. Control the Risks



Eliminate the Risk

The preferred option is to remove the need to work at height altogether by:

- Performing work from ground level.
- Prefabricating components.
- Using equipment that removes the need for elevated access.



Use Fall Prevention Devices

Where working at height cannot be avoided, fall prevention devices should be considered.

Examples include:

- Guardrails
- Temporary work platforms
- Scaffolding
- Elevated Work Platforms (EWPs)
- Safety mesh

These systems prevent workers from reaching a fall hazard.

3. Control the Risks



Use Work Positioning Systems

Where prevention devices are not reasonably practicable, work positioning systems may be appropriate.

These include:

- Restraint systems
- Industrial rope access systems

These systems allow workers to safely perform tasks while preventing exposure to a fall.



Use Fall Arrest Systems

Fall arrest systems should only be used as a last resort.

Examples include:

- Safety harnesses
- Catch platforms
- Safety nets

Because these systems arrest rather than prevent a fall, suitable rescue procedures must also be in place.

Ladder Safety



Ladders remain an important access tool but should only be used where safer alternatives are not reasonably practicable.

The Code recommends ladders for:

- Short-duration work.
- Light-duty tasks.
- Situations where the task can be completed safely using a ladder.

Ladders should always be:

- Inspected before use.
- Positioned on firm, stable ground.
- Maintained in good condition.
- Used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Selecting the right ladder for the application is an important part of reducing workplace risk.

Emergency Procedures

Every workplace where workers are exposed to fall risks should have documented emergency and rescue procedures.

This should include:

- ◆ Prompt rescue following a fall
- ◆ Procedures for harness suspension.
- ◆ First aid arrangements.
- ◆ Emergency contacts.
- ◆ Regular testing and practice of rescue plans

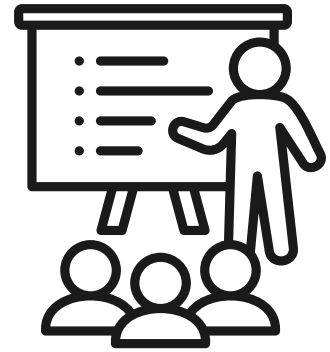


Training, Information & Supervision

Workers exposed to fall hazards should receive suitable information, instruction and supervision.

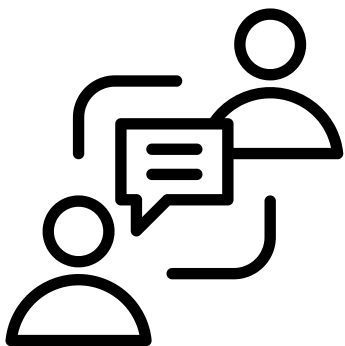
Training should cover:

- Hazard identification.
- Safe work procedures.
- Correct use of fall protection equipment.
- PPE inspection.
- Emergency response procedures.



Consultation and Coordination

Consulting with workers and other duty holders is an essential part of managing workplace safety.



Consultation assists with:

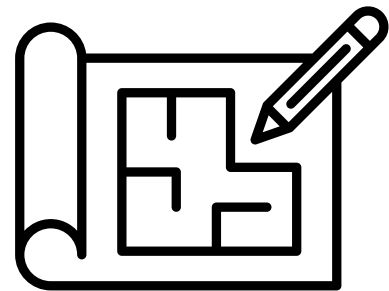
- Identifying hazards.
- Assessing risks.
- Selecting practical control measures.
- Reviewing existing procedures.

Design and Planning

The safest workplaces consider fall prevention during the design stage.

Designers should incorporate features that eliminate or minimise fall risks during:

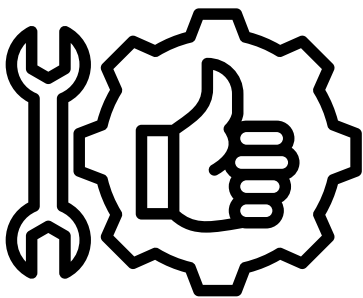
- Construction
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Repair
- Demolition



Early planning often removes hazards before they exist.

Maintenance and Review

Fall protection systems should be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure they remain effective.



This includes routine inspection of:

- Guardrails
- Platforms
- Ladders
- Harnesses
- Anchor points
- Safety nets

Control measures should also be reviewed following workplace changes, incidents or near misses.



Managing a Mezzanine Fall Risk



The Situation

A warehouse identifies a fall risk around its mezzanine storage area.



Control Measures Implemented



Installs compliant guardrails around exposed edges.



Delivers training on working safely at height.



Provides workers with safe access to the mezzanine.



Establishes emergency rescue procedures.



Conducts regular inspections of the guardrails.



Consults workers to review the effectiveness of these controls.



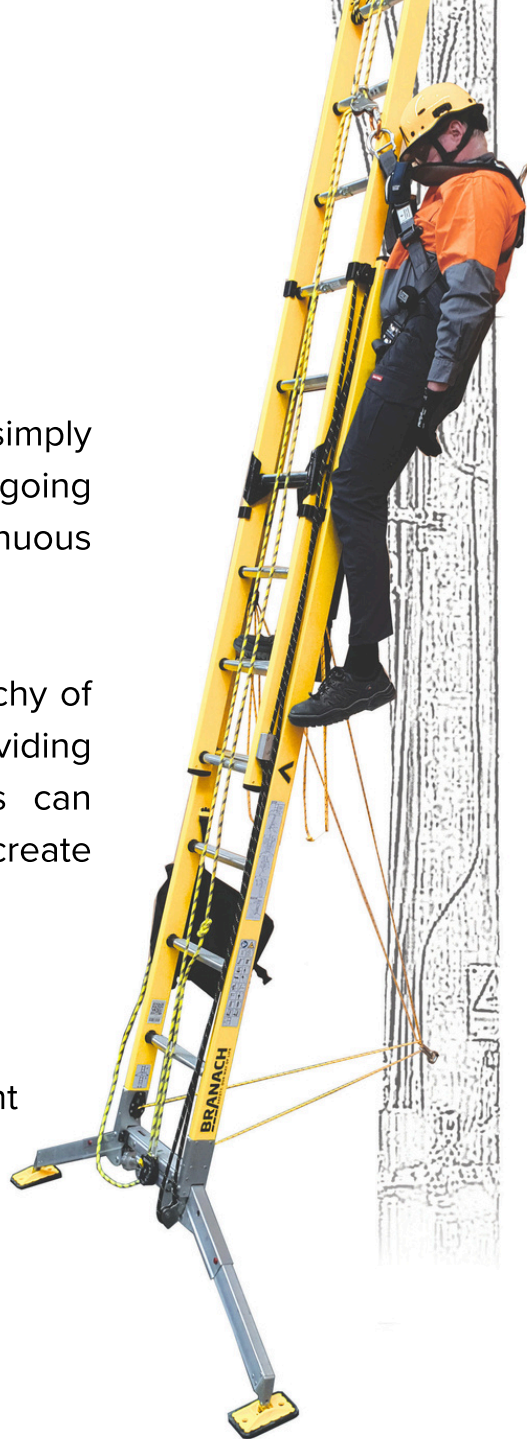
By following the hierarchy of controls, the business significantly reduces the likelihood of a workplace fall.

Creating Safer Workplaces

Managing the risk of falls requires more than simply complying with legislation. It requires ongoing planning, consultation and commitment to continuous improvement.

By identifying hazards early, applying the hierarchy of controls, maintaining equipment and providing workers with appropriate training, businesses can significantly reduce the likelihood of falls and create safer workplaces for everyone.

At Branach, we understand that safe access equipment forms an important part of any fall prevention strategy. Selecting the right equipment for the task helps workers access elevated work areas safely while supporting compliance with workplace health and safety requirements.



Recognise fall hazards early to understand and manage risks before incidents occur.



Apply the hierarchy of controls to effectively eliminate or reduce fall risks



Maintain equipment and provide training to empower workers to work safely at height.




A proactive approach to fall prevention protects people, supports compliance and builds a stronger, safer business.

Safer workplaces begin with better access solutions. Our engineered access equipment is designed to help businesses work safely at height while supporting compliance with workplace health and safety requirements.

Learn more about our height safety solutions:

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