

# **BWEA Health & Safety Steering Group**

## **ALL-ENERGY'08 Health & Safety Workshop**

**Work at height in wind turbines  
- key issues & BWEA approach**

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## **Background**

- Work at Height Regulations 2005
- Wind turbines - custom and practice
- What is appropriate and reasonably practical on a site by site basis?

embrace

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## **Objectives of BWEA commissioned study**

- Identify and assess risks with different types of nacelle access systems.
- Utilise any relevant work to date inc. practice in other countries.
- Consider relevance of practice in allied industries e.g. telecoms, utilities.
- Present findings using a generic lifecycle model - capital and ongoing costs.
- Recommend a methodology to enable assessment of lifts versus ladders - site basis.
- Demonstrate the application of the above as an aid to risk based decision making—ref W@H regs

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## **Study methodology**

- Desk study.
- Legislation review.
- Industry workshop.
- Assessment and evaluation of findings.
- Development of draft methodology and pilot application.
- Initial draft report.
- Review and comment.
- Revised & circulated to BWEA members.
- Report Version 3 to be issued shortly.

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## **Complicating factors**

- Earlsburn fatality.
- Need to review fall arrest system test procedures and retest equipment.
- Relevant legislation – lifts / man riding hoists?
- Ongoing refinement of lift products & requirements for build / maintenance.
- Wide range of turbine types / tower heights – practical solutions.
- Retrofit or not?

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## Where are we now?

- BWEA work has highlighted the relatively complex nature of the debate.
- Decision taken by some companies to universally fit lifts where practical.
- Remaining doubts over life cycle benefits of lifts.
- Retrofitting unlikely in many cases.
- Refinement of BWEA risk assessment methodology ongoing.

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## Conclusions

- Refined lift products designed into tall towers - relatively clear cut decision for new turbines.
- Vertical ladders and effective fall arrest systems still needed.
- Lifts cannot be fitted in smaller older turbines.
- Debate continues on many mid range turbine models.
- Alternatives to lifts are under development.