

Work at Height: HSE approach, *Safe Turbine Tower Access*

ALL-ENERGY '08

Health & Safety (Wind) Workshop

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- **Work at Height:**
 - **Safe Turbine Tower Access – developing HSE position**
 - **Fall arrest equipment (update)**
- **Reminder of other H&S priorities (Onshore)**
- **Working together – moving forward**



Safe Turbine Tower Access: Developing HSE Position (1)

- **New***, yet to be ordered, turbines:
 - Will expect lifts (or other suitable means of access).
- Turbines **already on order**, including those undergoing construction etc:
 - Accept (*with caveats*) that decision on appropriate access method will be taken on case-by-case basis using *Decision Making Framework*.
- **Existing** turbines:
 - Again case-by-case basis, but accept lift less realistic except where design could already one.

Safe Turbine Tower Access: Developing HSE Position (2)



Turbines **already on order** – caveats applying:

- HSE reserves right to explore and challenge the decision taken by operator/client/manufacturer (whose RA might not be taken as red/final).
Starting point: If lift can be installed, then it should be.
- Where inspectors encounter turbines already designed to accommodate lift, e.g. necessary fixings, operator will have to explain why not installed and be prepared for challenge.
- HSE continuing to explore the numbers used in the *Decision Making Framework/CBA* which is viewed as a “living document”; expect it to be refined with experience.

Fall Arrest Equipment - BS EN 353-1: 2002 - Update



- HSE position remains unchanged
(Press Releases: 06/2004, 03/2006 and Safety Warning 10/2007).
- Research report (mentioned in 03/2006) to be published soon.
- In April invited BWEA to workshop (with user representatives from Utilities industries) to discuss issues arising from HSE research.
- HSE position: to demonstrate compliance need to ensure:
 - that PPE meets BS EN 353-1; the
 - that the issues raised in HSE safety warnings have been acted upon;
 - National Forward and Annex in BS EN 353-1 have been followed.

Other priority H&S issues:

- Dealing with emergencies
- Health issues, e.g. Fitness for Work, MSD, stress etc.
- Plant accidents (turn over, loss of control, road width)
- Electrical safety
- Welfare
- Lifting operations
- Supervision

HSE and the Wind Energy Industry – Working Together (1)



- Deciding good practice:
 - *We decide by consensus what is good practice through a process of discussion with stakeholders, such as employers, trade associations, other Government departments, trade unions, health and safety professionals and suppliers.*
- Don't forget:
 - Involving workers improves health and safety performance.

HSE and the Wind Energy Industry – Working Together (2)



- The industry is taking a proactive approach to safety through the BWEA - HSE will continue to support this.
- HSE is not anti-wind turbine or anti-renewables!
- Want to see a vibrant and successful wind energy generation industry.
- But want it to be a safe and healthy industry - for both **workers** and **public** – one in which risks are managed SENSIBLY.

Sensible Risk Management - Principles



- Ensuring workers and public are properly protected
- Providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks - focus on real risks
- Enabling innovation and learning not stifling them
- Ensuring those who create risks manage them responsibly - failure to do so likely to lead to robust action
- Enabling individuals to understand that as well as a right to protection, they have to exercise responsibility