



Safety, Health and Environment

Learning from the past – Created Openings – Prevention of Falls



These incidents have been discovered here at work, within the last year. Each of them could have easily led to a significant fall, and injury or even death.

A cable duct cover had been uncovered, exposing potential fall hazard - August 03

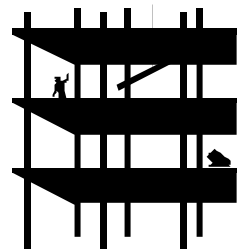
Sections of handrail are missing on the top gantry above the redundant dosing tanks – April 03

Scaffold edge protection on roof inadequate. This is not a frequently visited area, but the lack of protection could have led to a serious fall situation – October 03

Manhole lid missing from pit – 8 ft deep – April 03

The common themes to these incidents are :-

- Rarely / infrequently visited areas.
- Unsafe, or provision of incomplete, handrails & equipment.



On the following pages you will find the awareness training pack for safe management of Created Openings – MP 1447.

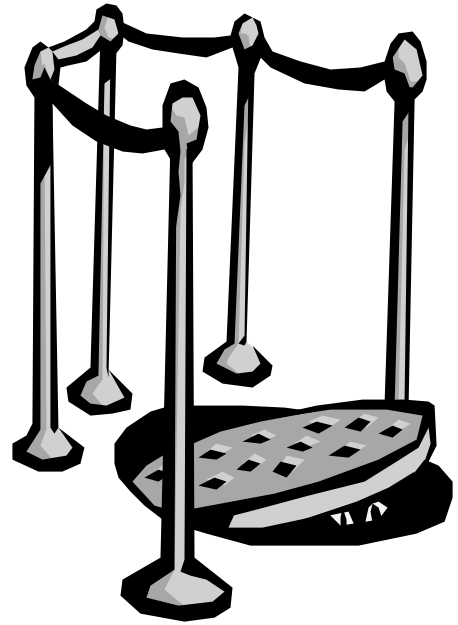
Please take the time to read and understand it. It will help us all to provide a safe working environment for ourselves and our colleagues.

MP 1447 - Created Openings – Awareness for all

A created opening is :

- any opening created in a floor or edge protection

A opening is an aperture large enough for a boot to enter and more than 300mm deep



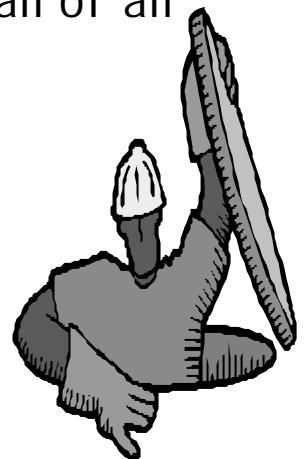
Principles.....

- openings shall be avoided unless there is no practical alternative

- work at openings shall be avoided unless there is no practical alternative

- if work involves creating an opening, then a full risk assessment is required, which must include detail of all precautions to be in place for safeguarding :

- the opening
- persons working at the opening
- passers by



To safeguard people creating or working at an opening

Acceptable options :

1. Temporary floor (typically scaffolding) before creating the opening (limit fall to 300mm or less)
2. Erect barrier capable of taking persons weight.
Provide warning signs
3. Anyone working inside barrier to wear secured safety harness (all cases > 2m)



Safeguarding an opening

Acceptable options :

1. Floors – secure a cover adequate to support normal traffic in area
Edges – secure scaffolding materials across opening to create replacement hand railing and toe boards

2. Erect barrier capable of taking persons weight.
Provide warning signs. Ensure that the barrier does not cause any hazards due to it's stability, height, or being too close to the created opening
3. Erect light barrier using hazard tape provided :
 - fall is < 300mm
 - surroundings well lit
 - lifting covers from shallow drain gulleys
 - quick lifts from one level to another
 - prompt replacement of simple sections of flooring
 - Lifting drain >300mm light temporary barrier for the period the time the cover is lifted



Examples of created openings

- lagging removal from vessel wall leaving a gap
- pipework removed leaving a hole in the floor
- removal of part of vessel surrounded by scaffold
- temporary removal of Kennedy grating floor
- excavation



Responsibilities.....

Supervisor / Work Controller must :-

- Produce a written Risk Assessment and select appropriate controls
- Consult with WCP issuer where a full WCP is to be used
- Make sure the area is safe on completion of work
- Make employees aware of hazards and of controls for work at openings

