



PRECAST SOLUTIONS

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PASSIVE FALL SAFETY NETTING

Passive Fall Safety Netting

A key hazard related to the construction of multi-storey precast structures is the internal leading edge created when installing individual floor slabs. The HSE, through guidance and legislation, insist that passive fall protection must be the first line of defence.

PCE's opinion, as a specialist, has always been that safety nets are the most practical solution to passive fall protection, yet there was an absence of any real data and guidance as to the use of safety nets in conjunction with precast systems. Therefore, we embarked on our own testing regime to establish their use as a practical solution.

Critical factors are the fixing position of the nets, the height of the fall, the clearance below the suspended net and the rigging methodology. A testing regime was developed to simulate a number of structure configurations and an actual fall from height scenario. The results of these tests were analysed to formulate a best practice model for the use of nets with precast concrete. This model was then further verified through our ongoing involvement and membership of FASET, the industry standard body for training and best practice guidance.

PCE established that safety nets could be used effectively to arrest a fall where there was a clearance of only 2m below the suspended net. We also established best practice methodology for the fixing and restraining of safety nets along with an effective testing and maintenance regime.

The result being a practical and effective system of providing passive fall protection internally within structures as they are being constructed.



Benefits of Safety Netting

- Removes the requirement for harnesses and other fall arrest systems
- Practical and effective in use
- Compliant with BS EN 1263-1
- Installation undertaken by trained riggers
- Flexible solution with spans of 2m to 10m easily accommodated
- Compliant with Schedule 5 of the Work at Height Regulations



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