

EXTERNAL DECORATION AT HEIGHT

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Elevations from towers and MEWPs · weather windows · public protection

KD-RAMS-PD-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5; COSHH 2002 for paints, solvents and preparation dusts. COSHH does NOT cover lead — lead in coatings is the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 with ACOP L132 (3rd edition, 2002), and HSE records that lead pigments were not removed from commonly used paints until the early 1980s. Work at Height Regulations 2005; CDM 2015 reg 15 (and reg 13 where a principal contractor is appointed).

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

External decoration from towers, MEWPs and scaffold: preparation and coating of elevations, joinery and metalwork, with public protection below. This document does not cover: ladder-based working beyond short-duration light work, and facade spraying (Cladding trade).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Work at height from steps, podiums, towers or MEWPs

At risk: Operatives, and anyone below

Controls: Select access by the Work at Height hierarchy — podium or tower before steps; MEWPs by trained (IPAF) operators only. Inspect access equipment before use, establish an exclusion below overhead work, and secure tools and materials against dropping.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Dust from sanding and preparation — old coatings may contain lead

At risk: Decorators, occupants

Controls: Dust-extracted sanders as default; wet abrading where extraction is impracticable; coatings in buildings predating the early 1980s treated as lead-suspect under the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002: no dry sanding or burning, hygiene regime, and testing where disturbance is significant; sheeted segregation in occupied areas.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Interface with occupants, other trades and the public

At risk: Occupants, other trades, the public

Controls: Segregate the work area — barriers, signage, sheeting; agree access routes and working hours with the occupier; never obstruct escape routes; deliveries and waste runs outside peak movement times where agreed.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Solvent vapours from paints, thinners and cleaners

At risk: Decorators, occupants

Controls: Water-based systems where the specification allows; ventilate enclosed rooms mechanically; solvent storage in the COSHH store; rags to metal bins — oil-finish rags self-heat; no ignition sources during solvent use.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Weather at height — wind and wet surfaces

At risk: Decorators

Controls: Towers/MEWPs within wind limits; no work on wet access; materials secured against gusts; forecasts checked before high work.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Plan access per elevation; segregate the public below; drop zones barriered.
- Prepare with extraction/wet methods; lead-aware on older buildings.

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- 03 Coat within the weather window; secure materials at height.
- 04 Lower equipment at breaks; nothing stored on tower platforms overnight.
- SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Towers (PASMA) / MEWPs (IPAF)

Extracted sanders

Barriers

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

Head protection

Safety footwear

High visibility

Gloves — task-rated

Eye protection

Hearing protection

FFP3 during preparation

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-WH-006 — Work at Height Permit

Where the site requires a permit for the access.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

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PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-09	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-10	material	Lead corrected: COSHH 2002 does not cover lead, so the basis, the legal note and the control text now cite the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 with ACOP L132 (3rd edition, 2002). Legislation position reviewed against Product Legislation Register KD-REG-01 Rev R01.3 and the August 2026 horizon scan; cutoff moved to 10 August 2026.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-27	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from D1; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.