

Statutory basis: the Work at Height Regulations 2005 for work above projecting reinforcement — the fall prevented first, the bars protected as well; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15 — the construction phase planned, managed and monitored, including protection kept in place for following trades. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

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

Protecting people from impalement and strike injuries on reinforcement projecting from foundations, walls, columns, slabs and pile caps: designing projecting bars out where possible, choosing protection for the fall height, capping, troughing and boxing, horizontal bars at head and eye height, bending starters only where the design allows it, and keeping protection in place for following trades until the bars are built in.

This document does not cover: fixing reinforcement (KD-RAMS-CF-003), breaking down pile heads (KD-RAMS-GW-002), lifting cages and bundles (under KD-PTW-LO-008), and any decision to bend, cut or heat bars — that is the structural engineer's.

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. Falling onto vertical starter bars from height

At risk: Operatives on formwork, scaffold and decks above the bars

Controls: The first option is taken at design stage: couplers or continuity strips in place of projecting bars wherever the design allows. Where bars remain and anyone could fall onto them from above, plain caps are not relied on — the fall is prevented with edge protection and working platforms, and the bars are also covered with troughs, boxing or caps the supplier states are designed to resist impalement.

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

2. Tripping or stumbling onto starters at ground or deck level

At risk: Everyone in the area

Controls: Every projecting vertical bar is capped as it is fixed — by the fixer, not left for the next trade; runs of starters beside walkways boxed or troughed; access routes kept clear of starter lines or diverted with barriers.

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

3. Walking into horizontal and continuity bars at head and eye height

At risk: Operatives, other trades

Controls: Projecting horizontal bars, couplers and continuity bars at wall and column faces capped or boxed and marked with high-visibility markers; access routes do not pass them at head height; eye protection in the steel area.

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

4. Bending starters down or back up — bar fracture, loss of the design, strain injury

At risk: Operatives, the permanent works

Controls: Bars are bent or straightened only where the design or the engineer's written instruction allows it, by the method it states — never heated, never levered with a scaffold tube. Where bending is allowed, a proper bar bending tool is used and the area kept clear in case a bar snaps.

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

5. Caps and boxing removed, lost or broken by following trades

At risk: Everyone in the area

Controls: Protection checked at the start of every shift by the supervisor responsible for the area; missing or damaged caps replaced at once from stock kept at the workface; any trade that removes protection to work reinstates it before leaving.

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

6. Plant catching projecting bars

At risk: Plant operators, those nearby

Controls: Starter lines barriered and marked where plant travels; dumpers, telehandlers and excavators kept clear; a machine that snags a bar stops — the bar is not dragged free.

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

7. Cuts and puncture wounds from bar ends and tie wire

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Cut-resistant gloves for handling steel and fitting caps; tie-wire tails turned in; offcuts cleared as they are made; puncture wounds cleaned and reported for first aid.

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

8. Slips and falls on reinforcement mats while fitting protection

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Board walkways laid across mats before protection is fitted; no walking on the bars; caps fitted from the walkway or from outside the mat.

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 H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Before fixing, ask the designer whether couplers or continuity strips can replace projecting bars at each location; take that option wherever the design allows.
- From the drawings, identify every remaining location where bars will project and the fall height above each; select caps for trip-height bars, troughs, boxing or impalement-resistant caps wherever a fall from above is possible, and markers for horizontal bars.
- Hold enough protection at the workface before fixing starts.
- Cap or box each bar as it is fixed; no bar left uncovered at any break.
- Install edge protection and working platforms above starter lines before any work at height over them.
- Barrier starter lines from plant routes and walkways; divert routes away from head-height bars.
- Bend, crank or straighten bars only on the engineer's written instruction and by the method stated; clear the area while bending.
- Check protection at the start of every shift and after other trades have worked in the area; replace anything missing at once.
- STOP work above or beside any uncovered bar where a fall onto it is possible until it is protected.
- Remove protection only as each bar is built in; hand protected areas over to the next trade and record it.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Couplers or continuity strips where the design allows
- Caps for trip-height bars
- Impalement-resistant troughs, boxing or caps where a fall from above is possible
- High-visibility markers for horizontal bars
- Bar bending tool — only where bending is permitted
- Board walkways and 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
- Cut-resistant gloves

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

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

No permit is normally required for this activity. The site's own rules may still require one — check before starting, and record any permit issued below.

PERMITS ISSUED FOR THIS WORK (OR NONE)

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.

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	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; 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.