

ROPE ACCESS PAINTING AND COATING

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Coatings work from ropes · paint and solvents near the line · drips and drops over people below

KD-RA-PA-005 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Work at Height Regulations 2005 regs 4, 5, 6 and 12 — rope access is used only where the hierarchy shows working platforms are not reasonably practicable; the system has two independently anchored lines, and the plan includes rescue (HSE INDG401 (rev 2, 2014)). Rope access practice to BS 7985:2013. Equipment used to lift people is thoroughly examined under LOLER 1998 reg 9. COSHH 2002 for paints, solvents and preparation dusts; old coatings are lead-suspect under the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 with ACOP L132 (3rd edition, 2002). Protection of the public below to HSE HSG151 (2nd edition, 2009) and HSWA 1974 s.3. CDM 2015 reg 15 (and reg 13 where a principal contractor is appointed). 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

Preparation and painting of elevations, soffits, steelwork and structures by operatives on rope access: justifying rope access against the work at height hierarchy, carrying and using paint and tools on the ropes, protecting ropes and harnesses from coatings and solvents, controlling drips, drops and dust over people below, weather limits for application, and making safe at the end of the day.

This document does not cover: the rope access system itself — rigging, anchor proving, team structure and rope rescue — which is KD-RAMS-HA-002 and must be in place alongside this document; decoration from towers, MEWPs and scaffold (KD-RAMS-PD-004); spraying from ropes; and removal of lead coatings or any preparation beyond key abrading (KD-RAMS-LD-002).

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. Paint, thinners and strippers damaging ropes, harnesses and slings

At risk: Rope access operatives

Controls: Solvents and many coating chemicals can weaken synthetic rope and webbing, and the damage may not be visible. Only products the rope and harness manufacturers' instructions allow near the equipment are taken on the ropes; no strippers or solvent cleaners on the line. Rope protectors are fitted where the rope passes the work, kettles hang below and to the side of the operative, and brushes are never wiped on the rope. Any contaminated rope, harness or sling is withdrawn and quarantined until a competent person has examined it.

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

2. Dropped tools, paint kettles and drips onto people and property below

At risk: The public, occupants, other trades, vehicles

Controls: An exclusion zone below the work, sized for drift of drips and dropped items in the wind, barriered and watched where the public could walk into it (HSE HSG151 (2nd edition, 2009)). Every tool on a lanyard; kettles lidded, part-filled and clipped to the harness or a separate line. Parked vehicles and property below are moved or sheeted.

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

3. The rope access system — suspension failure, anchors and rescue

At risk: Rope access operatives

Controls: Controlled by KD-RAMS-HA-002, in place before this document is used: two independently anchored lines (Work at Height Regulations 2005; BS 7985:2013), proved anchors, and a rescue plan the team on site can carry out.

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

4. Wind and weather — rope swing, wet surfaces, coating outside its limits

At risk: Rope access operatives, people below

Controls: The wind limit is set in the rope access plan and checked against the forecast and on-site measurement before and during the work; for coating work it takes account of drips and dropped items carrying further, not just rope swing. No painting in rain or outside the temperature and humidity limits on the coating data sheet.

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

5. Lead-suspect coatings prepared from the ropes

At risk: Operatives, people below

Controls: Coatings painted before the early 1980s are lead-suspect, so lead status is confirmed by survey (KD-RAMS-LD-001) before the drops are planned. Where lead is present or presumed, the assessment, hygiene and waste controls of KD-RA-PA-003 apply: preparation by hand, wet, for key only — no power sanders, dry scraping or burning off — with debris and run-off caught in bags, sheeting or trays, never let fall. Anything beyond key abrading goes to KD-RAMS-LD-002.

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

6. Fatigue and awkward working positions in the harness*At risk: Rope access operatives*

Controls: Long periods in a harness with arms raised tire operatives and draw attention away from the system. A work seat for extended painting; drops planned so the operative is not overreaching sideways; rest breaks off the ropes at intervals the supervisor sets; loads on the ropes kept to what the task needs.

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

7. Equipment in unknown or deteriorated condition*At risk: Rope access operatives*

Controls: Thorough examination by a competent person at least every 6 months, or to a written examination scheme (LOLER 1998 reg 9), with the report kept; pre-use checks and interim inspections as the rope access plan sets (Work at Height Regulations 2005 reg 12). Anything damaged, contaminated or of unknown history is withdrawn and quarantined.

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

8. Occupants opening windows or using balconies in the rope line*At risk: Occupants, operatives*

Controls: Occupants told the dates and elevations in advance; windows in the drop kept closed and balconies closed off as agreed with the building manager.

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

- Record why towers, MEWPs, cradles or scaffold are not reasonably practicable for this elevation; rope access is used only on that record.
- Confirm the team, supervisor and rescue capability; that the rope access system and rescue plan under KD-RAMS-HA-002 are in place; and the lead status of the coatings from the survey (KD-RAMS-LD-001).
- Select coatings and cleaners the rope and harness manufacturers' instructions allow near the equipment; plan quantities so only what is needed goes on the ropes.
- Set up and staff the exclusion zone below, allowing for drift; move or sheet vehicles and property; notify occupants and agree windows and balconies with the building manager.
- Check the forecast and on-site wind against the plan limit, and conditions against the coating data sheet, before rigging.
- Rig from proved anchors under edge protection or restraint; fit rope protectors at edges and where the ropes pass the work.
- Carry out pre-use checks; attach tools on lanyards and lidded, part-filled kettles to the harness or a separate line before going over the edge.
- Prepare by hand with wet methods, catching debris and run-off; apply the coating from a work seat, keeping the kettle below and to the side and paint off the ropes.
- Stop and make safe if wind or rain exceeds the limits, a rope or harness is contaminated or damaged, anything is dropped, communication is lost, or the exclusion zone is breached.
- At the end of each day bring all materials and tools down, de-rig or secure ropes out of public reach, and leave nothing hanging unattended.
- Inspect and log equipment after use; quarantine anything contaminated or damaged; dispose of coating waste as the COSHH assessment directs.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE**5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Rope access equipment — working and safety lines, harnesses, descenders, back-up devices | Debris bags, sheeting and trays |
| Rope protectors and edge protectors | Anemometer and radios |
| Work seats | Exclusion zone barriers and signs |
| Tool lanyards and lidded paint kettles | |

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
- Helmet with chin strap
- Rope access harness to the plan
- Gloves suitable for rope work

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

For every rope access drop.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-RF-007 — Roof Work Permit

Where the ropes are rigged from a roof.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-PE-009 — Permit to Enter

For occupied buildings and controlled areas below.

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.

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.