

## Fall protection (roofers kit)

### RESPONSIBILITIES

**OPERATOR:** This is your life-saving equipment - TAKE CARE OF IT. Failure to do so could cause serious injury or death. It is your responsibility to read and understand these instructions and, above all, thoroughly check the rope and complete restraint system and its components before use. Should any fault be found TAG IT, REMOVE IT FROM SERVICE and CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HIREDEPOT BRANCH ASAP.

### INSPECT THE SITE

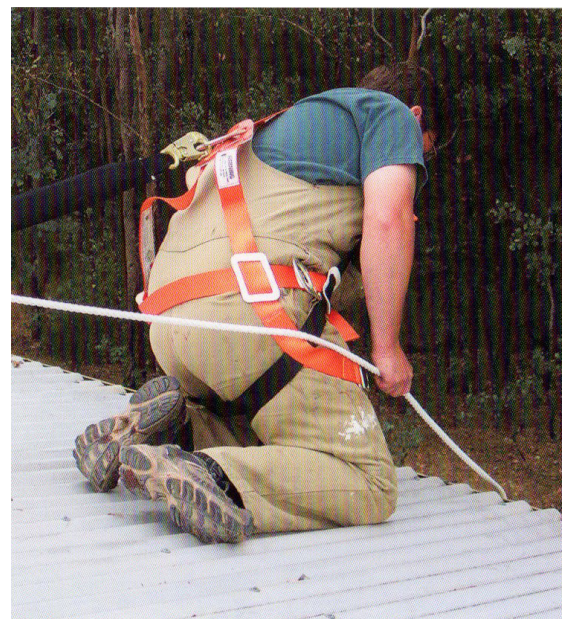
If you are working on a roof or in a position where you could fall 2 metres or more, or you are within 2 metres of an unprotected edge, you are required to make the area safe.

HIREDEPOT and HI-SAFE INDUSTRIES recommend that you install fixed handrails (meeting the relevant codes), build scaffolding, use a scissor lift, use a boom lift, use a crane box. Remember, personal protective equipment is your last line of defence and should only be used where it offers more protection or the others are not PRACTICABLE.

- Nominate any persons approved by you or your company to work on roofs.
- Issue a permit for the area of work and a time limit.
- Ensure, if working on fragile materials, that enough crawl boards are available.
- Fit your harness while on a safe surface and carry out any adjustments prior to climbing - do not assume they will just be there.
- Only one person per anchor point.
- Be aware of any openings in the roof. Check from below for light panels, skylights should be roped off or covered by timber sheeting or weld mesh.

Make sure you inform the client or home owner that you are about to work on their roof. Constantly look about and check for weather changes. Sudden wind changes, rain squalls or lightening can be very dangerous for roof workers.

As of now, you must always work in a TETHERED restraint - that is you MUST keep the rope between you and the anchor point tight. This way, if you should fall you will only produce two or three hundred kg of force.

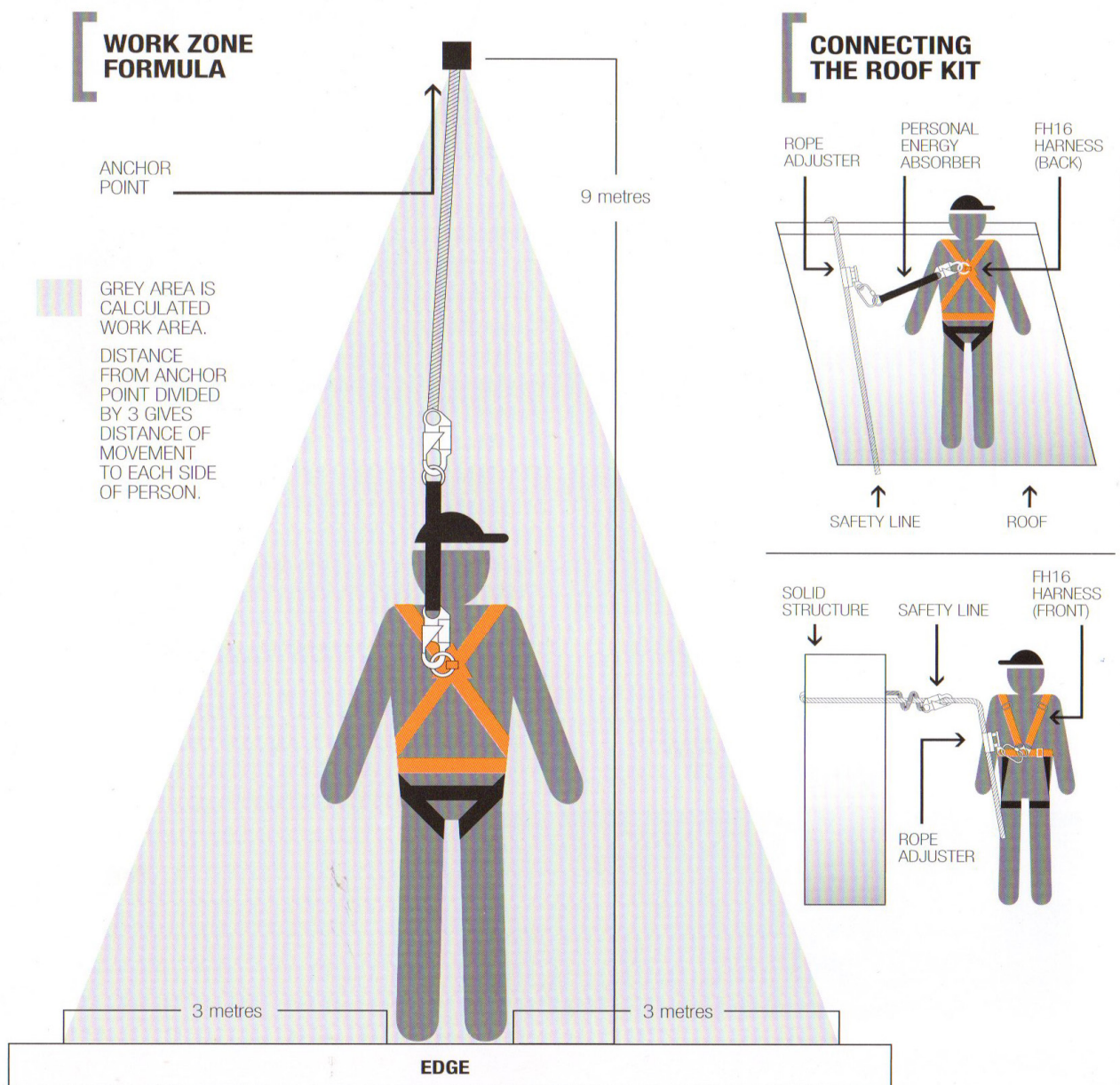


Excessive heat or could also plays a part. You need sufficient daylight to see properly, so plan your finish time.

- Check for where the power lines enter your work area and where you position ladders.
- Do not put ladders in front of doors or windows. If you work in driveways make sure you barricade the area or use witches hats.
- Remember, most commercial and all domestic roofs do not have enough strength for you to find an anchor point to take a 2 metre fall on.

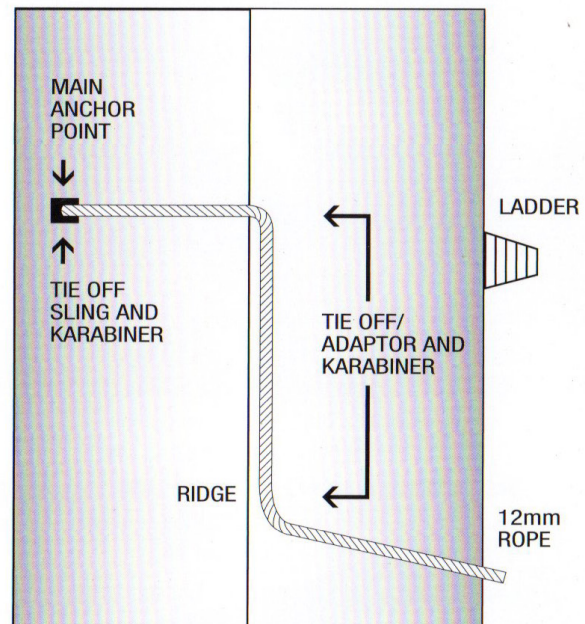
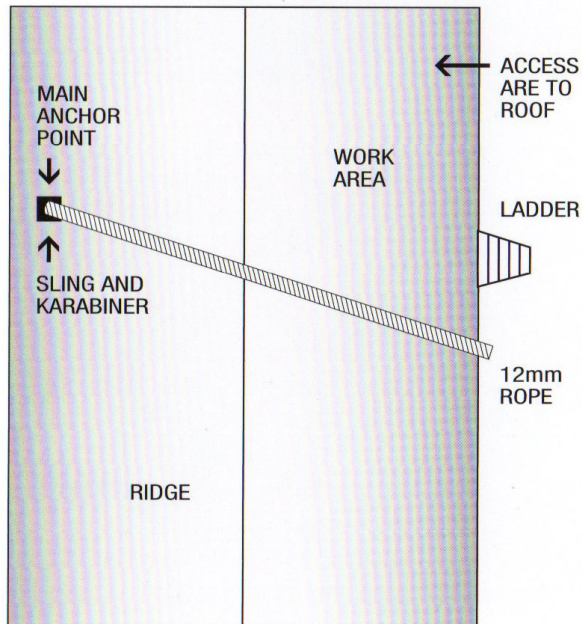
## RULES OF TETHERED RESTRAINT

- Check all equipment prior to each use, to ensure it is in good and safe condition.
- You must never work any closer than a half metre from an edge or opening.
- You must keep the rope tight between you and your anchor point.
- You must keep your working zone (or angle of the dangle).
- Working zone is a formula. Measure (roughly) the distance from you to your anchor point, divide by 3. This is your working zone (refer to diagram).



## SOME BASIC THOUGHTS

- Do not work at height or on roofs unless you have been suitably trained in an acceptable training course.
- Do not access or work on a roof alone if the potential is there for a fall. Ask yourself: "Do I need to wear industrial fall protection to prevent a fall?" If the answer is "Yes" you need a buddy or lookout.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn and on some roofs Dunlop Volleys are better than safety boots. Sunscreen, hats etc. should also be part of your routine.
- Do up overalls, jackets, shirts etc., as wind getting in can turn you into a nice sail and you won't be the first person to be thrown off balance.
- You must remain attached to your tethered restraint system at all times, unless you are behind your engineered system such as guard rails, scaffolding, etc.
- If your health is not 100% or if you are affected by medication, do not work at height or on roofs.



## SAFE USE OF THE ROOF KIT

When using this kit the AC20 sling is placed near the ridge and then the rope is passed through the karabiner of this tie off. This allows 360 degree access. If a roof worker is required to move fully around the roof or to work both sides of a ridge, extra anchor tie offs can easily be added.

When extra anchor tie offs have been added, this will enable the roof worker to move along ridge and work 360 degrees around each anchor sling.

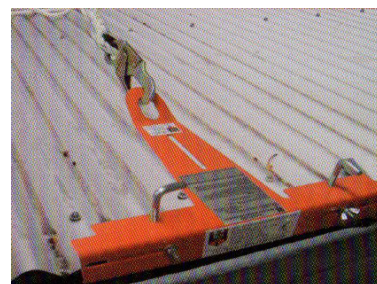
When going to work on roofs it is important to first inspect the site and establish such things as the best area to access the roof; the condition of the ground; if you are putting up a ladder, what is the slope; how firm is the ground; any overhead power lines; any doors that can be opened onto the ladder etc.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- If you are going to work in a tethered restraint, how will you set up your working lines?
- Do you need to establish anchor points on the roof?
- Can you kick back a tile and tie off to a rafter?
- Do you need to remove part of the ridge cap to locate an anchor point?
- Can you use HI-SAFE INDUSTRIES' LS20 roof anchor system?

**“Height safety starts before the job gets off the ground. Before work starts you must identify all tasks that might cause an employee or visitor to fall more than 2m from one level to another, and this includes getting to and from the work station.”**

**CODE OF PRACTICE: “PREVENTION OF FALLS IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION”**



The LS20 restraint bracket

## IDENTIFY FALL HAZARDS

- On any structure or plant being constructed, demolished, inspected, tested, maintained, repaired or cleaned;
- On a fragile surface, i.e. cement sheeting, fibreglass roof sheeting, skylights etc.;
- On potentially unstable surfaces, i.e. stacks of building materials, timber pallets and bricks;
- Using equipment to gain access to an elevated level, i.e. when using scaffolds or portable ladders;
- On a sloping or slippery surface where it could be difficult to maintain your balance, i.e. on glazed tiles, wet, oily, dusty or steep surfaces 15° or more;
- Near an unprotected edge, penetrations or opening - i.e. perimeters without guard rails, in complete stairwells, holes in roofs, etc.
- Near a hole, drain, shaft or pit into which a person could fall.

HIREDEPOT and HI-SAFE INDUSTRIES recommend you engineer out the problem by use of the guard rails, scaffolding, scissor lift, boom lift, crane box or man cage on a forklift. The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - industrial full body harness, lanyard, fall blocks, drop lines, etc. - is your last line of defence and should only be used when it offers more or better protection than the engineered solution.

Remember, working on roofs has increased hazards due to prevailing or potential weather conditions where strong winds, sudden wind changes, rain or fog can make a roof treacherous. We would recommend that a roof that is wet from dew, rain, ice or fog should not be accessed.

Do not access a roof that has a steep pitch or slippery surface and depend on guard rails for your safety. A slip may have you travelling at high speed into the biggest cheese cutter in town or flip you over the guard rail. You may find that PPE can and will offer a higher degree of protection if used correctly.

Do not access or work on a roof made of fragile material (asbestos) unless you have been trained and certified to work with this material and meet the current legislative requirements.

## CAUTION

**When a roofer is working around the second anchor point he must be aware of a pendulum fall if he is near a gable end roof.**

*For any concerns or queries about fall protection equipment please contact your local Hiredepot branch.*