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Dear Sir/Madam,

This questionnaire forms part of a study into the impact of the Work at Height Regulations introduced in 2005. This study is being carried out by System Concepts, a health and safety consultancy, on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The aim of this questionnaire is to gather information about the awareness and understanding of the risks to those working at height. This includes all sorts of work from regular construction activities to occasional shelf stacking in retailing so that we can find out how aware workers are about the different hazards involved and what they need to do to prevent falls. We are therefore asking Trade Union Safety Representatives to provide information about the workers that they represent and the work that they do.

The information that you provide is very valuable, and will be used by the HSE to develop further programmes aimed at reducing work at height accidents. All the information that you provide on this questionnaire will remain strictly confidential and will only be used for the purposes of this study. It will not be passed to your employer or any other body, other than being amalgamated with similar information in the results of this study.

I hope you feel able to take part in this study, but if you require any further information, including how to complete this questionnaire, please contact me on 0207 240 3388.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Peebles
System Concepts

Email: laura@system-concepts.com

Questionnaire for Trade Union Safety Representatives

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Trade Union: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

1. What sort of work does your employer carry out?
2. What job do you do?
3. How long have you been a trade union safety representative?
4. How many workers do you represent?
5. What are the main sorts of jobs that they do?

6. How much time on average do the workers that you represent spend working at height?

Has this changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes – If yes, please explain how it has changed and why you think this has happened.

7. Are you aware of the Work at Height Regulations 2005?

- No
- Yes – If yes, please explain what you believe they require.

8. Are the workers you represent aware of the Work at Height Regulations?

- No
- Yes – If yes, do you think they understand what they require? Please explain.

9. Have the risks associated with the work at height carried out by the people you represent been assessed by your employer?

- No
- Yes – If yes, please explain (e.g. have you seen evidence that risk assessments address work at height?)

10. Do you know if the risk assessments have been reviewed/changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes – If yes, how have they changed and why do you think this has happened?

11. What type of access/safety equipment is used for work at height?

Has this changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes – If yes, how has it changed and why?

12. What training, information and guidance have been provided to the workers you represent by your company to help them to work at height safely?

Has this changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes - If yes, how has it changed and why?

13. Are you aware of any work at height accidents or near misses that your company has had since the new Regulations were introduced? If yes, how many? Please provide details if known.

14. What equipment was most commonly involved in these incidents/accidents? Please read through the list below and tick the appropriate box(es)?

- Portable ladders
- Fixed ladders
- Stairs
- Scaffolding
- Work areas/platforms
- Vehicles
- Roof edges
- Fragile roofs
- Other Provide details:

Comments:

15. What do you believe were the main causes of these incidents/accidents? (Read through the list and tick the appropriate cause[s]).

- Unsafe work practices
(i.e. no adequate safe system of work)
- Poor training
- Pressure to work too quickly
- Unsafe work equipment
- Lack of supervision
- Others Provide details:

Comments:

16. From consultation with the workers that you represent, what factors do you think most influence their behaviour when working at height? (Please read through the list, tick the appropriate box and explain the reasons for each of your choices, in the comments section). How important is each of these factors?

- Pressure to meet deadlines
- Financial rewards e.g. bonuses
- Being supervised
- Training in work at height
- Work experience
- Compliance with Health and Safety laws
- The consequences of an accident

Do you think opinions have changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes – If yes, how and why have they changed?

17. From consultations with the workers that you represent, how good do you think your company is at protecting employees who work at height?

Do you think opinions have changed in the last year?

- No
- Yes – If yes, how have they changed and why?

18. From consultations with the workers you represent, do you believe that your company can do more to make work at height safer?

- No
- Yes – If yes, what?

19. Have you been provided with any information on the Work at Height Regulations?

- No
- Yes – If yes, what information did you receive and who provided it to you?

20. How confident are you that these Regulations will make the work at height of the workers that you represent safer?

21. Any further comments?

Thank you very much for your help

Please return this questionnaire to:
Laura Peebles, System Concepts, 2 Savoy Court, London WC2R 0EZ