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Safety nets on construction sites and other works – Code of practice

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, and inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 24, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2019. It was prepared by Subcommittee B/514/27, *Nets and sheets*, under the authority of Technical Committee B/514, *Access and support equipment*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 8411:2007, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This British Standard gives recommendations on how safety nets manufactured to conform to BS EN 1263-1:2014 and installed as specified in BS EN 1263-2:2014 can be used to enhance safety for those working at height.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- removal of additional half metre safety zone;
- removal of the technique of pinning as no longer used;
- clarification of temporary repairs;
- clarification relating to rigging nets as close as possible to working level; and
- clarification on working practices in eaves bags.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at bsigroup.com/standards, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations.

It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word “should” is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word “may” is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word “can” is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Attention is drawn to the following legislation:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 [1];
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 [2];
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005 [3]; and
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 [4].

Introduction

Safety nets are used on construction sites and similar works mainly to arrest a person's fall, although they can also be used to catch or contain debris. Safety nets reduce injury because they absorb a large proportion of the energy from a falling body through suffering plastic deformation when impacted, dissipating this energy with minimum rebound.

Safety nets provide a collective protection system that is constantly available for those persons working above it, i.e. one which requires no input from the workers it is being used to protect.

Safety nets are manufactured from synthetic materials. While they are lightweight and rot-resistant, they can be easily damaged by improper use, wear and tear, heat or flame, and handling and storage. They can also be adversely affected by ultraviolet (UV) degradation and environmental factors, resulting in some strength loss. Safety nets are subject to regular examinations by competent persons including periodic testing in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

1 Scope

This British Standard provides recommendations on the safe use, installation and effective maintenance of safety nets on construction sites and other works where there is a risk of fall. It is intended for use by designers, engineers, safety net installers, end users and authorities having jurisdiction, for example the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

It is applicable to safety nets that conform to BS EN 1263-1:2014 and that are installed within the positioning limits given in BS EN 1263-2:2014. However, as these standards give specific minimum size limits, this British Standard also gives guidance on how to assess the reliability of safety nets outside these limits.

NOTE Advice is given in [Annex A](#).

This British Standard covers safety net systems "S", "T" and "U" as given in BS EN 1263-2:2014, Clause 5, Clause 6 and Clause 7 respectively. It does not cover system "V" (Clause 8).

This British Standard does not cover tensioned access platform nets, which are intended for persons to stand on either for access, egress or work.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document.¹ For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5975, *Code of practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework*

BS 7883, *Code of practice for the design, selection, installation, use and maintenance of anchor devices conforming to BS EN 795*

BS EN 362, *Personal protective equipment against falls from a height — Connectors*

BS EN 795, *Personal fall protection equipment — Anchor devices*

BS EN 1263-1:2014, *Temporary works equipment — Safety nets — Part 1: Safety requirements, test methods*

¹ Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.