

Important Safety Notice:- Rope Access

Subject: - Damage to Ropes from Edges

BIS Salamis would like to raise awareness of procedures which should be carefully followed in relation to methods on how to protect working and safety back up ropes from abrasion, hot surfaces and cuts from edges.

1.0 Where the risk assessment identifies an increased risk of damage to ropes from abrasion, hot surfaces and cuts from edges this **MUST** be avoided by rigging ropes in such a manner so as to avoid the ropes coming into contact with edges or hot surfaces.

1.1 Rigging

This can be achieved by selecting anchors which allow for ropes to be rigged directly above the drop or by using a “Y” hang, thus avoiding edges or hot surfaces.

1.2 Deviation

If the anchors are not in a suitable location for rigging directly above, then ropes may be deviated using a side anchor to avoid the edge.

1.3 Rebelay

A re-belay (re-anchor) may also be used to avoid the exposure to constant abrasion from an edge.

The above methods are the most effective in protecting ropes from abrasion, hot surfaces and cuts from edges and should be used whenever possible.

2.0 Where it is not possible to use any of the above methods and where the risk assessment identifies that there is **ANY** possibility of ropes coming into contact with an edge then the edge/hot surface should be covered with suitable protective material.

2.1 Protective Edge Mat

This method is where a rubber mat, plastic plate or thick tough material is placed over the edge and secured to the structure.

2.2 Protective Edge Roller or Plate

An edge roller or plate is an option for protecting the rope from abrasion on an edge. It is usually placed over the edge and secured to the structure and the ropes are run over the bearing wheel or plate. As an alternative 50 mm diameter scaffold tubes positioned to protect from any edges, will provide adequate protection.

As technicians will already be aware there is another method of protection from edges and that is the use of fabric rope protectors.

3.0 Rope Protectors

3.1 Double Canvas Rope Protector

A rope protector provides some protection from edges to working and safety but must not be used in isolation It must be securely attached to the rope by means of a non-slip knot or other fixed point to avoid slippage and subsequent exposure of the rope to an edge/hot surface.

It is worth noting that all three methods of rigging, edge protection and rope protection may be used in combination to protect ropes from edges or hot surfaces.

References

BIS SALAMIS TMS-23-P-11 Section 5.1-5.6

IRATA ICOP 2.7.10, 2.11.3.2, 2.11.8

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE) Research Industrial Rope Access – Investigation into items of personal protective equipment section 5 Rope Protectors - http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/crr_pdf/2001/crr01364.pdf

If you are in any doubt STOP work immediately and contact your supervisor, onshore focal point or BIS Salamis HSEQ dept