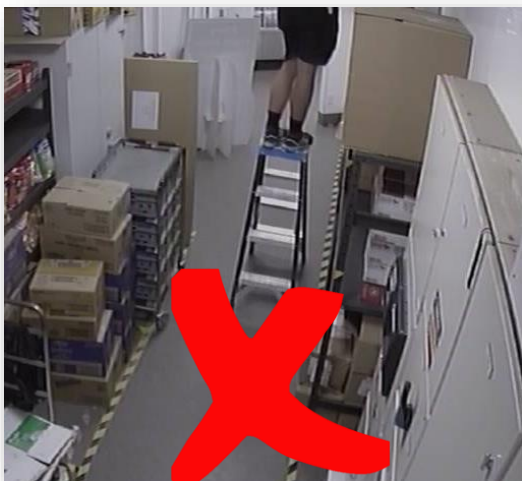


A-FRAME LADDER PROHIBITION

Since the commencement of 2022; several poor work practices involving ACS contractors have been reported to us through our customer network. The latest incident involved a contractor at site working off the top of an A-frame ladder (see Fig.1). It has been the ACS policy for some time that A-Frame ladders are banned for all our work that requires elevation to enable the work to be done safely. The standard has not changed, such work must be performed from a step ladder platform or if over 2 metres an elevated work platform EWP. It's very disappointing that once again our Health and Safety policies have been ignored where a worker has carelessly put themselves in a position of serious risk of permanent injury or even death.

We cannot hide the fact that the covid pandemic has placed a lot of stress on workers, and safety can be overlooked when you work under tight deadlines, long hours, rushing, resulting in shortcuts being taken. Even our usual protocols such as wearing of PPE are being dispensed with as seen in Fig.1, make sure you work to the standard shown in Fig.2 below.

The technician involved in this incident had a step ladder platform available in his vehicle but decided it was oversize for the workspace available, he made the decision to use an A-Frame ladder.



(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

As you are fully aware our ACS Vehicle SWMS Manual 2021/2022 Edition contains task specific SWMS to be applied universally at all ACS customer and client sites. The use of step ladder platforms is stipulated in the SWMS job steps, there is no exception to the rules unless your risk assessment indicates a lesser measure will not impact on the workers safety. Using an A-Frame ladder for a work platform is not recognised as one of these exceptions. Any changes or deviations to SWMS hazard/ risk controls need to be clearly detailed on your ACS SWMS Site Specific – Risk Review form.

Be prepared, don't arrive on site without the correct platform type or size and have the appropriate PPE. If for whatever reason the equipment isn't readily available, take time to safely secure the area to reduce risk and then seek out or arrange for the equipment to be brought to site.

The SWMS process relies entirely on the technician(s) to follow the job step requirements, any continuance by a contractor worker to ignore those compliance obligations may result in the worker or contractor having their contractual agreement reviewed or even cancelled by ACS.

The root cause analysis performed reveals that the worker is not adequately trained to perform the task under the circumstances discussed:

Root Causes:

2 CORRECT WAY TAKES MORE TIME AND/OR REQUIRES MORE EFFORT

a) Correct way/ adhering to the procedure takes more time or requires more effort

4 IN PAST, DID NOT FOLLOW PROCEDURES OR ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES AND NO INCIDENT OCCURRED

b) Procedures and/ or work standards such as SWMS not consulted

Recommendations:

1) Contractor PCBU to retrain the technician involved; training to include safe application of the customer H&S guidelines for induction, Risk Assessment, and use of SWMS. BP HSE Guidelines to be covered off, ACS SWMS and Site-Specific SWMS – Risk Review.

All ACS contractor workers should be made aware of the incident event happenings, and to reiterate the PPE and SWMS requirements, the ideal forum would be to present safety alert at your next toolbox talk.

2) Contractor PCBU to perform an ACS Lets Behave Safely Observation on the technician involved to ensure that the learnings from 1) have been clearly understood and those gaps identified are stewarded to closure.

Lessons Learnt:

- Do not send technicians to site without being adequately customer or SWMS trained and/or supervised. As a PCBU you may be setting the worker up to fail if the worker is not competent to perform the task safely
- A risk assessment must be carried out to identify the hazards relating to the equipment, the potential for injury, its severity, and the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard identified. Falling from heights is one of the worst things that can happen to you, record solution on the ACS Site Specific SWMS – Risk Review
- Never use an A-Frame ladder on an ACS customer work site
- No SWMS available at site for the task = No Work

“Use the Brain before your Hands”