

# FUSION<sup>21</sup>

*Building a Safer Future – Safe Ladder work at height*

*Welcome*

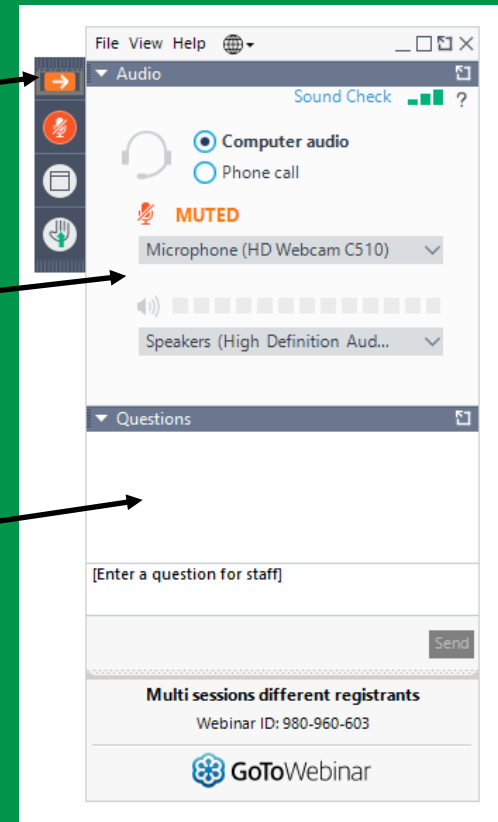
# Introduction



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## Today's Panel

- John Jones – Operations Director Bell Group
- Clive Johnson – No Falls Foundation
- Richard Wilks – Health, Safety and Sustainability Director Bell Group



## Introduction

Welcome to our  
presentation and a  
simple new way to use  
ladders safely





## Presentation

Richard – About Bell

Clive – The scale of the problem.

John – Why and When ladders?

Clive – No Falls Foundation

Richard – The Bell Ladder System







## About The Bell Group





Clive Johnson

Falls!

The Scale of the problem





## The scale of the problem

- More than **10 million** people work at height as part of their job
- Every day **99** of them fall (yes, *99 every single day*)
- **35** fatalities last year – more than half were construction workers

**36,000**  
falls every year

**99**  
falls every day

**1**  
death every 10 days

## This doesn't have to happen

- Falls from height are even more tragic because they are **avoidable**
- Work at height should **not** be dangerous
- Falls can be **prevented** with:
  - Proper training
  - Sufficient planning
  - Quality equipment
  - A strong safety culture



John Jones

From boy to man

A career at height!





## Planning work

I've worked at height all my career. Starting in the industry as an apprentice painter at the age of 16 I know all about working safely and unsafely at height.

**The key to safe work at height is planning.**



## Planning work

The text book answer does not exist this is all about competency. I've worked with Richard Wilks for several years now and he always says that Health and Safety does not really exist. People exist, risk exists and also good and bad management exist. We want to keep our people safe and so we plan and manage work selecting the most appropriate work at height solutions.





## Selection

Our CDM plans are developed so they encourage our Surveyors to input into the solutions and the Contract Managers to fine tune the work at height solutions to best fit the immediate work surroundings.



# Competency?

Skill

Knowledge

Attitude

Training

Experience

SKATE



## Changing selection?

At Bell Group we use every work at height solution that is available and allow our trained workers to think and plan work; picking up the information from the initial work surveys but then discussing on site situations as part of our daily briefing. This is effectively a dynamic risk assessment. If ladders are not suitable they are not used.

At Bell we train/empower our workers to **STOP** and **THINK**.



## Selection

We regularly use: step ladders, hop-ups, MEWP's , tube scaffolds, ladders, podiums, towers scaffolds, system scaffolds and all other solutions that can add to our options.

One size does not fit all.

Planning work : lets listen to the HSE



# Safe use of ladders and stepladders

A brief guide

**Ladders and stepladders are not banned under health and safety law.**

**In fact they can be a sensible and practical option for low-risk, short-duration tasks.**





## Competency:

### Who can use a ladder at work?

To use a ladder you need to be competent, ie have had instruction and understand how to use the equipment safely.

Appropriate training can help. If you are being trained, you should work under the supervision of somebody who can perform the task competently. Training can often take place on the job.



## We want to improve and innovate at Bell

Over several years we have improved the safety of all our workers who use ladders as well as other work at height access equipment. Our accident records speak for themselves.

Several years ago, as the industry market leader, we took the initiative by introducing anti-slip devices as mandatory for all our ladder work.



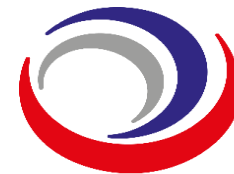
Above all we want to be safe

At Bell we would like to support the work of the No Falls Foundation.

We are very lucky to have Clive here today to talk about the Foundations work.



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painting and building maintenance.

# Introducing the **No Falls Charter**



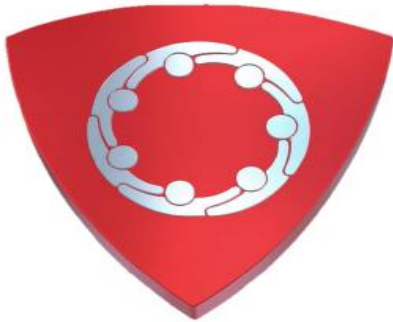
12 July 2021





## Our work

**Raising awareness of life-changing consequences  
and fatalities following a fall from height**



**PREVENTION**



**RESEARCH**



**SUPPORT**



## The financial cost

- The annual cost of falls from height is over **half a billion pounds**
- Around **572,000** working days are lost every year because of falls

**NHS**  
£££

**Benefits**  
£££

**Tax losses**  
£££

## Introducing the No Falls Charter

A **standardised action plan** for businesses who can commit to striving for zero falls from height.

Bringing together good height safety practices from existing standards, policies, regulations and industry bodies into **one document** that can be adapted and implemented by any organisation.



## Introducing the No Falls Charter

We're calling on UK businesses to stand up and make a tangible commitment to achieving **zero falls from height** across all their sites and locations and throughout their supply chain.

If we all **do this together**, one day everyone who works at height will come back down safely.



## Our aims

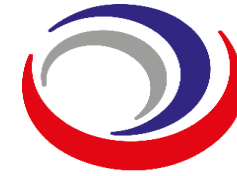


- **Zero** falls from height
- Start in the **construction** sector
- Then **expand** into other sectors

## How will it work?

- A business applies to become a **No Falls Champion** – a tangible commitment to achieving zero falls from height and zero falling objects
- They will pass a **No Falls Audit**
- They pay **fees** to be part of the scheme
- The funds they invest will help to **prevent falls** and **support** those who have suffered a fall.
- Being a No Falls Champion is something to be **proud** of!





Richard Wilks  
John Jones

The development of  
our new system and  
standard



## Changes to standards

The changes will help to improve the safety of ladders and also make buying the right ladder much simpler.



**BS EN 131\*** – the single British & European product standard covering all types of portable ladders (step, extending and combination) has been substantially revised. When a European Standard, or Euro Norme (EN) has been agreed and ratified, all CEN member countries are obliged to adopt that Standard as a national standard, in our case, as a British Standard (BS) and withdraw, or amend, any conflicting national standards. So, the British Standards, BS 2037 and BS 1129 (often referred to as Class 1 and Class 3 ladders) now must be amended to remove conflicting products, which means that, after a transition period, certified ladders from these standards will no longer be available.




## Changes to standards

**NEW STANDARD**

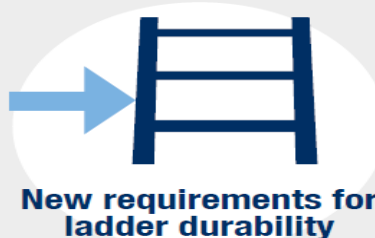
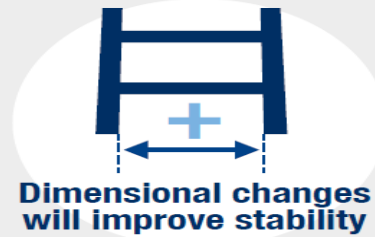
**EN 131**

	<b>Non-Professional</b>	<b>Professional</b>	
for domestic users only		intended for use in a workplace	

**All ladders now have the same minimum capacity of 150kg**



**EN 131 has new requirements that will improve the safety of ladders:**





## Changes to base width





We want to improve and innovate at Bell





# Thank you for listening



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