



# DROPS bestpractice

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**DROPS best practices** are issued after considerable research and validation. We challenge you to compare your current working practice with the **best practice** listed below - we hope it helps you improve the safety in your workplace. If you consider your current practice to be better - please let us know!

## 01 : WORKING WITH TOOLS AT HEIGHT

This is an example of current **best practice** for the methodology to be used for tools at height. *Note: the vendor is one of many that can offer such a system.*

### OVERVIEW

HSE statistics showed that one of the most common dropped object incidents in industry is one involving hand tools: around 10% of all dropped object incidents reported to the HSE in 2001/2002 involved hand tools.

**This high incident rate makes it imperative that all companies using tooling at height have an effective work practice to stop hand tools becoming dropped objects.**

### HISTORY WITHIN THE DRILLING SECTOR

The need to achieve a 100% reduction in drops of hand tools was targeted in 2002 (by KCA Deutag). Risk analysis investigations showed three risk areas:

- 1:** Tools dropped whilst in actual use.
- 2:** Tools dropped whilst being taken to the workplace.
- 3:** Tools left at the workplace in error, which subsequently drop (due to vibration etc).

### 'ACTIONS ON' RISK ANALYSIS

The following parameters were identified as being 'must haves' to achieve the aim of 100% reduction in dropped tool incidents:

- 1:** All tooling used At Height to be lanyard attached to user or the workplace.
- 2:** Tooling to be manufactured or modified to provide lanyard attachment points.
- 3:** Only tooling designed as 'At Height' compliant to be used aloft.
- 4:** Lanyard attachment point on the tool must still enable the tool to be used effectively.
- 5:** A choice of lanyard systems to be provided - Velcro attached to wrist and short lanyard for lighter weight tools; 1 metre wire and web types for heavier tooling.
- 6:** Tooling to be colour coded to denote purpose.
- 7:** Sockets and extensions need to be 'locked-on' to ratchets.
- 8:** Tools to be taken aloft in some form of kit bag.
- 9:** Kit bag to be attached to user, and to leave both hands free.
- 10:** Tools to be attached to kit bag (not merely put in it).
- 11:** Storage facility for tools when not in use should use two colour foam inserts where each tool has its own unique storage location. This enables end of task or end of shift visual check that all tools have been returned.
- 12:** Adoption of working practice to ensure all users aware of scope and purpose of At Height tooling and any particular methods of work.

### RESULTS OF ADOPTION OF ABOVE PARAMETERS

- » Over 80 kits built to the above specification have been supplied to Drilling contractors (BHP Billiton, Diamond Offshore, Global Santa Fe, KCA Deutag, Transocean being some users)
- » Kits have been in use since 2002
- » Aim of 100% reduction in drops has been achieved



**DROPS**  
DROPPED OBJECTS  
PREVENTION SYSTEM