SAFETY ALERT

HACA fixed rail vertical fall arrest system type 0529.7102

Number: SA 07/07

ES&P Sponsor:
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Who Should Read this: CEstOs, Top Level Budget Holders, Project Sponsors, MOD Project Managers and others within the IPT (for both Prime, PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts), Defence Estates Advisors and Property Managers/Site Estate Representatives with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs) Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers (Working at Height) and Authorised Persons (Working at Height).

When it takes effect: Immediately
When it is due to expire: 09/11/08

Document Aim: To notify all relevant parties of a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Safety Warning in respect of the HACA fixed rail vertical fall arrest system type 0529.7102 manufactured by HACA Leitern, Lorenz Hazenbach GmbH, Bad Camberg, Germany.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Fixed rail vertical fall arrest system type 0529.7102</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer/Supplier</td>
<td>HACA Leitern, Lorenz Hazenbach GmbH, Bad Camberg, Germany, <a href="http://www.haca.com">www.haca.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td>The product has failed tests under BS EN 353-1:2002 conducted by HSE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk</td>
<td>BS EN non-conforming product could lead to potential injury or death when deployed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>All establishments using or having responsibility for the HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 should immediately cease using them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Synopsis.
   a. This safety alert advises all relevant parties of a recent HSE Safety Warning explaining that
      the fixed rail vertical fall arrest system type 0529.7102 manufactured by the German company
      HACA Leitern has failed tests under BS EN 353-1:2002.
   b. The HSE undertook a further test against their established ‘fall back test’, in which the product
      also failed. Further information on the earlier research on this type of test is available in the
      2004 HSE Safety Warning:
         www.hse.gov.uk/press/2004/e04074.htm
   c. Although the HACA Leitern is not an MOD approved system, (DE Technical Bulletin 00/06
      refers), it is possible that this system may exist, or might be planned for procurement on the
      defence estate.

2. Details:
   a. The HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 fixed rail vertical fall arrest system, failed tests on two
      occasions under BS EN 353-1:2002, as conducted by the HSE, resulting in dynamic forces
      greater than the 6kN allowable.
   b. The HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 fixed rail vertical fall arrest system also failed to arrest
      falls of an anthropomorphic dummy in the additional ‘fall back test’ conducted by HSE.
   c. More information on the above tests are available from the HSE Safety Warning at:
      www.hse.gov.uk/falls/fixedrail011007.htm

3. Actions:
   a. Addressees are to ensure that the requirements of this alert are actioned immediately.
   b. Authorising Engineers (Working at Height) (AE(WaH)) are to, with immediate effect, ensure
      that, on any sites for which they have responsibility, HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 fixed rail
      vertical fall arrest systems are identified.
   c. On any site where HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 fixed rail vertical fall arrest system is found
      to be present, AE(WaH)s are to immediately issue a prohibition on their use. Thereafter
      ensure that physical measures are taken to prevent their further use.
   d. Where the HACA Leitern type 0529.7102 fixed rail vertical fall arrest system is installed on the
      defence estate, application of the hierarchy of precautions of the Work at Height Regulations
      are to be considered, prior to any decision to remove and replace with an alternative fall arrest
      system.
   e. The HSE reminds users of fall arrest equipment of the vertical rigid rail type or vertical guided
      type to heed the important information contained in the HSE 2004 Safety Warning:
         www.hse.gov.uk/press/2004/e04074.htm

4. References:
   a. DE Policy Instruction:
   b. Defence Estates Technical Bulletin 00/06 Fixed Access Ladder Systems