

PIT Protection Systems- Preventing falls into PITS

Safe Working Practice No. 03-2024

Date: 17.09.2024	Revision No. 2.0	Remarks: New safety procedure
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MANDATORY

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this safety procedure is to explain the safety precautions and safety controls which apply to you when you are working on a vehicle using a vehicle inspection pit and walking near a vehicle inspection pit.

2. Responsibility

2.1 The Technician and Apprentice shall always comply with this safety procedure.

2.2 Workshop, parts, and contractors may use for crossing purposes. They must not use the PIT bridge for transporting workshop equipment across the bridge i.e. Floor cleaner, Toolbox, trolley jacks etc.

References: Health and Safety in Motor Vehicle Industry HSG261

1. Signs and Painting

'Danger/Caution PIT' signage shall be displayed at the workshop entrance.

'Only Authorised Personnel' signage shall be displayed at the workshop entrance.

PIT edges must be highlighted by painting 'YELLOW' (approximately 150mm wide).

2. Information and Instructions

You must complete the pit safety E-WORKSHOP training course.

You must read Pit Protection Systems Preventing pit falls SSOW.

You must comply with PIT warning signs.

You must maintain housekeeping standards before, during and after work in the pit area. If the area is not safe do not start the task and report this to your Supervisor!

You must be competent and authorised to drive and to manoeuvre vehicles on and off the PIT.

You must seek assistance where required to access / exit the pit with a vehicle / trailer.

You must NOT straddle an open PIT.

You must NOT leave no trip hazards and spillages around an open PIT.

You must NOT leave tools, equipment, air lines, electric cable or other items around the PIT apron, working platforms and the pit steps, etc.

You must NOT work at height directly next to an open PIT. You must either install a PIT bridge to cover the pit or move the vehicle to a hard standing area.

3 PIT Steps (Access/Exit)

You must make sure PIT steps are kept clean and tidy, to prevent any slip and trip hazards.

You must make sure PIT steps are kept free from contamination.

PIT steps have an anti-slip resistant material or coating.

4. Limit access to PIT areas.

You must be trained and authorised to work in a vehicle inspection PIT or near it.

Contractor and visitor is supervised when working or visiting PIT areas.

Contractor who needs to use the pit must complete a permit to work and then must carry out a dynamic risk assessment prior to commencing work. Any concerns must be notified to their site contact.

5. PIT Lighting

You must check the PIT lighting is in good working order and maintained.

You must use PIT lighting during working hours.

You must make sure PIT lights are kept clean.

You must report any failed bulbs or damaged PIT lights immediately to your supervisor.

6. Pedestrian Routes

Where workshop floors have painted pedestrian walkways always use these.

7. Barrier Chains

You must use a suitable barrier or chain at the workshop entrance when the PIT is to be left uncovered for >30 minutes.

8. Spillages

You must clean up spillage (oil, grease, fluids, etc.) around an open PIT is cleaned up immediately to prevent slip hazard.

9.0 Pit Bridge(s)

You must comply with the pit bridge safety instructions stated below.

Using pit bridge as a crossing location



Photo 1: This shows a bridge as a crossing location.

Before using the pit bridge to walk on, **you must** carry-out pre-use checks to ensure it is:

- Placed properly across the open pit.
- There are no spillages, oils and grease on the bridge surface.
- There are no components, tools, equipment, air lines and electric cables left on the bridge.
- **Do NOT use the pit bridge if it is damaged or defective.**

You must walk slowly across the pit bridge, always stay in the middle of the bridge and between the yellow lines.

Do NOT cut the corners of the pit bridge when using it.

Pit handrail(s) are not required as vehicles are required to drive over the pit bridge.
Always check and remove pit bridge handrail before you drive a vehicle over the pit bridge.



Photo 2:

If there are two vehicles and or trailer in proximity, then it is acceptable to use the bridge without handrails fitted as seen in the photo above.

Should one of the vehicles be moved then the handrail should be installed.



Photo 3:

Planning - Before carrying out work on the front or rear of the vehicle, drive the vehicle forward or reverse it so the pit is not exposed, and the vehicle is over the workshop floor.

Where possible you should carry out the work on the vehicle using the workshop floor hard standing.



Photo 4:

When a vehicle cannot be driven and it is parked at the front edge or back edge pit, then use the [pit](#) bridge as an infill and working platform.

There must be a vehicle parked as shown to prevent a fall.

Handrail is not required as there is no risk of falling into the pit.

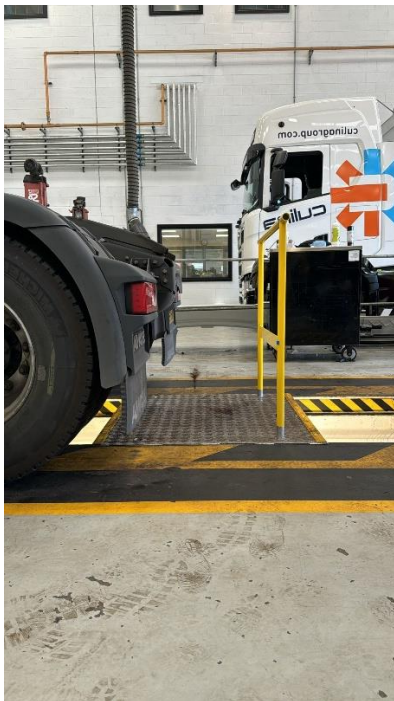


Photo 5:

When you need to work at the rear of a vehicle and it cannot be driven over the workshop floor, then you must use the [pit](#) bridge fitted with a handrail as a working platform.



Photo 6:
When you need to carry out inspection tasks or minor repairs use the [pit](#) bridge placed under the vehicle and fitted with a handrail.

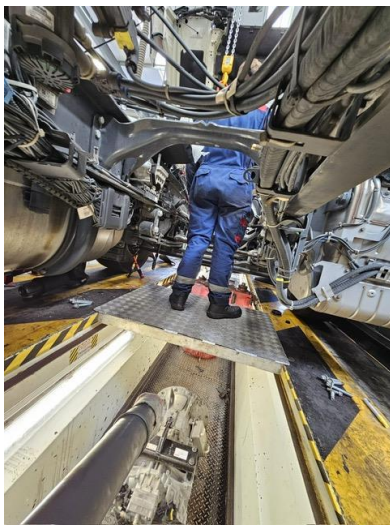


Photo 7:
The pit bridge should be used when needing to work inside the chassis rail to avoid straddling the pit.