

## SAFETY NETS AND AIR MATS

Safety nets are used as primary, collective and passive fall arrest. The price quoted for safety nets is for their supply, rigging and removal. The nets used will comply with BS EN 1263:Part 1 and be rigged in accordance with BS EN 1263:Part 2

- 1) **GENERAL METHODS OF RIGGING NETS:** The method of rigging safety nets will be in accordance with industry best practice published by FASET and will follow their guidance 'Risk analysis for work at height rigging and de-rigging safety nets'.
  - Netclaw: To a maximum height of 3.5 m
  - Mobile elevated work platform (MEWP): From ground level to underside of Level 1. In certain circumstances it may be possible to rig through Level 1 steelwork to underside of Level 2, but this is dependant on the steelwork configuration. This will be determined by our construction department.
  - Ladders above Level 1: Footed ladders will be used above Level 1 to a height of 4.5 m where neither the netclaw nor MEWP methods are deemed practical and safe.
  - Roped access: Where none of the preceding methods can be used then roped access will be used.

Note: Where MEWPs are specified by others for installation of nets above Level 1, this will increase the duration of hire and will incur additional charges, unless agreed at precontract stage.

- 2) **GENERAL METHODS OF DERIGGING NETS:** Dismantling will be undertaken in one continuous operation per floor immediately after the completion of each phase or area of our decking works and before any shear stud welding work commences.
- 3) **GROUND CONDITIONS:** Where MEWP's are used it will be the responsibility of the contractor to provide suitable ground conditions throughout the working area. Trenches and column bases must be suitably back filled.
- 4) **MINIMUM AREAS:** Our price is based on a minimum area for both erection and dismantling of 600 square metres of safety nets for each site visit by our operatives, unless stated to the contrary in the quotation. Revisits caused by a failure to provide these quantities for continuous working will be charged as an extra to contract @ £600 per visit plus any necessary plant hire. Additional hire rates of £30 per square metre per week will apply should the netting be required to stay in position for reasons beyond our control.

- 5) **PROGRAMME OF WORKS:** The contractor's programme should ensure that the entire area of the floor to be netted will be available for rigging the safety nets. Work will proceed sequentially up the building one floor at a time.
- 6) **ACCESS:** Our price is based on the condition that there will be good, clear and safe means of access and egress to and from each work position for all labour and materials.
- 7) **CONTINUOUS WORKING:** Unless stated to the contrary on our quotation our prices are based upon work being continuous, uninterrupted and carried out during normal 8 hour working weekdays (Monday – Friday). A minimum clear area of 250 square metres per day visit per 2-man erection gang must be handed over to us to allow continuous working. Revisits caused by a failure to provide sufficient clear area for continuous working will be charged at extra cost.
- 8) **NOTICE TO COMMENCE WORK:** We require 7 working days notice for each site visit.
- 9) **VARIATIONS:** Any variations to the scope of works or to the programme will be carried out on receipt of written instructions from the contractor subject to agreement on reimbursement of any additional costs and extension of time required.
- 10) **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Where severe inclement weather occurs, the programme is to be extended by the number of days in which work could not be carried out safely.
- 11) **NET ATTACHMENT REQUIREMENTS:** Our quotation is based on the safety nets being suspended from the bottom flange of 'I' section steel beams using a Grippa Clamp, Net Claw or rope ties. The maximum width of the bottom flange must not exceed 550mm. If the bottom flange exceeds these dimensions please notify us promptly so that an alternative method of erection can be agreed.
- 12) **ALTERNATIVE ATTACHMENT METHODS:** Where steel sections other than 'I' sections are used which preclude the use of the proprietary systems, then attachment points for the netting, for example welded lugs, must be provided by others at not more than 2.5 metres centres. Where slab edges abut concrete or masonry structures, attachment points must also be installed free of charge by the contractor, at not more than 2.5 metres centres.

- 13) It is not possible to tie attachment points around the steel sections in most circumstances as this interferes with the placing of the steel decking and edge trim. Attaching nets to scaffold handrails is prohibited.**
- 14) DAMAGE TO NETS:** The safety nets are for the purpose of a fall arrest system only and are not to be used for access or working platforms. The nets will stretch and lose some of their absorption capacity if people or debris fall into them or they are damaged by tears or burns, so any such events should be reported to us immediately. If damage has been caused by others a charge will be made for the dismantling and removal of the damaged net and the erection of a replacement net. An additional charge will also be made for repair of the net or its replacement if it is beyond economic repair.
- 15) MOVING OR ALTERING A RIGGED NET:** The safety nets should be erected and moved only by suitably qualified RLSD net erectors or sub contractors working to our direction. For safety reasons there must be no unauthorized movement or alterations by others.
- 16) GENERAL SAFETY:** It is imperative that no personnel are allowed above, below or alongside the areas in which our operatives are working. All necessary protection, barriers and notices to this effect are to be provided and maintained by the contractor. The contractor will also be responsible for the protection of other works and materials in the proximity of our working area.
- 17) CLEAR DISTANCE BELOW NETS:** The clearance zone below the safety net will be dependent on the size of net rigged. An absolute minimum clearance height of 2.5 m must be allowed at all times. Plant and materials must not be stored under a netted area at any time.
- 18) SAFETY AIR MATS:** Where temporary propping is required to be in place prior to the installation of the decking, or where decking is to be laid on or adjacent to concrete beams or masonry, our preferred method of fall arrest is the use of safety air mats.
- Lifting air mats to level: The contractor must make provision for lifting to level of the air mats. On the completion of work the contractor is also responsible for the lowering of the air mats to ground.
  - Preparation of ground: Where air mats are to be deployed the contractor must provide a suitable level base for them to sit on.
  - Protection at doors / windows: Any openings in the structure (typically window, door and floor openings) must be suitably closed off prior to our work commencing.
  - Security of plant and equipment: It will be the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that the air pumps are stored safely at the end of each shift. Loss of pumps will be charged additional to the contract @ £ 480 each.
- 19) WHERE AIR MATS / NETS CANNOT BE USED:** There may be limited occasions where the installation of safety nets / air mats is impractical. Under these circumstances it will be the responsibility of the client to provide a boarded platform as close as practicable to the underside of the decking to prevent falls from height.

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