



PRESS RELEASE
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HSE ENDORSES NEW BFFF GUIDANCE FOR WORKING AT HEIGHT

Pioneering work by the British Frozen Food Federation (BFFF) to reduce accidents in the food and drink industry has been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The Guidance for Working at Height (WAH) on refrigerated vehicles was developed over four years by the BFFF under the leadership of Joanna Hancock, head of health & safety, with assistance from the Food Storage and Distribution Federation (FSDF) as well as input from 30 stakeholders.

Until now, engineers working at height on vehicles and trailers were doing so without detailed industry guidance on good practice.

The project involved establishing a working group to create new protocols, holding detailed negotiations with stakeholders and practical demonstrations to illustrate the effectiveness of the new safety guidance. BFFF intend to include further examples of industry best practice into the guidance in the coming months.

Commenting on the WAH guidance, Warren Pennington, HM inspector of health and safety said: "Falls from height account for 6% of all accidents in the food and drink sector and I congratulate the BFFF's leadership here in writing guidance which helps to address this."

The guidance gives operators, contractors and engineers clarity on how the regulations relevant to their operation can be put into practice. This includes an example of the practical implementation of the hierarchy of control measures to be considered when working at height, which must be followed systematically.

Joanna Hancock, said: "After many years of collaboration, we are delighted to publish this guidance for the industry on this extremely important area. We are encouraging all industry stakeholders to embrace the guidance and continue working on improving safety within the sector, while working towards avoiding the need to work at height in the future.

"We would like to thank all of our members and industry representatives who assisted us in the development of this guidance and look forward to taking it forward as an industry and ensuring best practice benchmarks are developed."

As well as being endorsed by the HSE, the guidance has been developed in full consultation with BFFF's Primary Authority Wakefield MSC.

For a copy of the guidance in full, please contact crystalholmes@bfff.co.uk

About the British Frozen Food Federation

BFFF is the leading trade association for the frozen food sector. Its mission is to promote and protect the interests of the frozen food industry. Members cover the whole of the entire cold chain of supply.

The association campaigns with its members to educate, promote and inform consumers, retailers and the foodservice sector about the value of frozen food.

A range of services are offered impartially to each individual BFFF member organisation.

Membership benefits include:

- Renowned events – excellent networking opportunities
- Promotional campaign covering both the foodservice sector and consumers
- Informative industry magazine 'The Bulletin'
- Technical & Legislative advice
- Health & Safety advice
- Trade & Business leads
- Annual Awards which recognizes and rewards quality initiatives in new products
- Member benefits schemes.

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Issued on behalf of the British Frozen Food Federation