

D-marc Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Manual

This manual is provided to act as a guide to the duty holder (building owner, manager or employer) when engaging staff to work in areas of potential hazard. The D-marc system is used to keep the worker away from the hazard.

The D-marc system installed upon your premises is designed to both physically and visually delineate a safe zone.

The D-marc is installed to keep the worker at least 2 m from the hazard.

The regulatory requirements

Whilst D-marc is essentially maintenance free, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) requires that equipment provided for use at work is;

- 1) Suitable for the intended use
- 2) Safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case.
- 3) Used only by people who have received adequate information and training; and
- 4) Accompanied by suitable safety measures, eg protective devices, markings.

If we look at D-marc in light of each of the requirements of PUWER in turn;

1) Suitable for intended use

The following checks should ascertain that the D-marc system installed is suitable for its intended use;

- Is the D-marc system positioned at least 2 m from the nearest fall hazard? (see fig 1)
- Does it form a continuous physical barrier around the fall hazard. (see fig 1). Are all chains complete and intact?
- Is it clearly visible to anyone approaching the fall hazard?
- Are the posts installed at a maximum of 3 m centres?
- Does the chain have between 50 – 100 mm of sag between posts? (giving a barrier height of approximately 900 mm)
- Is the roof slope less than 10 degrees? (HSG 33 2012 p31 10 degrees is generally accepted as the maximum pitch for a flat roof)

2) Safe for use

We would recommend that you undertake a regular visual inspection of the system to ensure the chain remains visible, and tensioned between the posts to the recommended height.

Whilst the product is not intended to resist a fall it is designed to create a continuous visual and physical barrier around a fall hazard.

3) Training & Information

Restrict access to personnel who are aware of the hazard. Instruct them to remain within the confines of the D-marc system whilst undertaking their works.

4) Suitable safety measures

The D-marc is the safety measure.

Fig 1. A typical system to provide a safe area for regular maintenance.

