



Defence  
Infrastructure  
Organisation

## Safety Alert

Subject: Appraisal and Inspection of Masts & Towers and Hangars & other wide-span buildings

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DIO Secretariat Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

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Who Should Read this:

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 Infrastructure Organisation 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 (WaH), Authorised Persons (WaH), purchasers and installers of climbing equipment.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No Expiry  
except on update.

Health and Safety

### Document Aim:

To alert all personnel responsible for ensuring professional appraisals and condition inspections are undertaken on the MOD estate of the need to ensure that these are carried out.

## **1. Introduction**

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.
- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Regional Prime Contractor (RPC) and Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) to carry out all actions in accordance with this Safety Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD's Safety Rules & Procedures.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO (USF). At base level, this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Safety Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

## **2. Requirement**

- a. Professional appraisals and condition inspections of the above mentioned assets remain a mandatory requirement, and so up-to-date certificates shall be maintained for all applicable structures.
- b. Any work incurring expenditure of MOD funding requires appropriate authority from the MOD officer responsible for the particular establishment.

## **3. Background**

- a. It has come to notice that a number of sites do not seem to have up-to-date certificates in place, and so are not following the mandatory requirements. These are required in order to:
  - ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation and to meet the MOD's statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
  - guard personnel from incurring injury with potentially serious or fatal consequences.
  - guard MOD assets from structural failure and from causing further damage or injury, along with the cost of repair or replacement and the potential loss of military capability.
  - enable MOD assets to deliver their operational capability by providing adequate support and protection of military equipment and fittings.
  - enable safe access to be provided on structures so that they can be maintained along with any attached equipment which may also need upgrading or modifying.
- b. Inspection and appraisal of masts, towers, hangars and wide-span buildings are included in the mandatory category because of their:
  - strategic significance.

- potential vulnerability to unusual loading, corrosion or other serviceability states, exacerbated by their age or exposure to the elements.
  - potential for serious or catastrophic failure.
- c. The following MOD publications are mandatory:
- PG 09/08 - Masts and Towers – Design and Appraisal.
  - PG 10/08 - Masts and Towers – Condition Inspection.
  - PG 04/11 - Structural Appraisal and Certification of Proposed, Historic & Existing Hangar Structures and Other Wide Span Building Structures.
  - PG 05/11 - Condition Inspection and Certification of Proposed, Historic & Existing Hangar Structures and Other Wide Span Building Structures.
- d. This mandatory status is confirmed in the first sentence of Section 1 - Introduction of each document which states that “the contents of this Practitioner Guide (PG) are mandatory.”
- e. Section 2 of each publication describes the scope of the Practitioner Guides and what constitutes a wide span building or a wind-sensitive structure. For example, the scope of masts and towers includes flag-poles >6m high and all lowerable structures (for lighting or antennae) but not statues or typical street lights.
- f. In addition there are other publications that remain valid and current, including:

Health & Safety Warning Notice 02/08 - Inspection of Hangar Doors, Door Top Guides, Supports and Door Stops.

This publication is still in force and for example, inspection checks and routine maintenance of large hangar doors are required on a regular basis to ensure they are kept in safe working order.