

Tallescopes

Notes for safe access when focusing luminaires

Risk Assessment

Are there many luminaires to focus?
 Is Tallescope most appropriate equipment?
 How many skilled focusers are available?
 How to prevent fatigue and associated risk of slipping or falling whilst climbing the ladder or getting in or out of the cage
 How to prevent technician over-reaching?
 Is it reasonably safe to move Tallescope with technician in cage?
 What PPE is required – e.g. hard hats, safety boots, head torches?
 Record decisions
 Prepare a Method Statement

Brakes

Tallescope is stable with wheels unlocked
 No need to apply brakes on level stage
 Brakes **must be locked on** with rakes

Raked stage

Mast must be plumb – use the leg adjusters, make sure at least one and preferably two legs are not extended.
 Use circular spirit level to check where provided
 Locate Tallescope so that long axis is up and down the rake
 Ensure outriggers firmly on floor
 Ensure brakes are on before climbing the ladder
Do not move Tallescope with technician in cage

Alternatively provide a compensating anti-rake (levelling) piece

When using a Tallescope

At least two people to move Tallescope
 Tallescope should only be moved along long axis (not sideways)
 Force should be applied near base when moving Tallescope
 Operator pushing is responsible for confirming no hazards in path of movement
 Operator pulling responsible for confirming no overhead hazards and checking cage
 Technician in cage to ensure no tools or materials accumulate in cage or in bag
 Keep all tools in bag or on lanyard
Always work within cage. **Do not over-reach**
 Feet must remain on floor of cage
 Do not over-reach or stand on kickboards, rails or boxes or ladders to gain height
 Any equipment to be pulled up must remain within wheelbase of Tallescope

If in doubt **STOP!**

Before use

Are staff sufficient, trained and authorised to use the equipment?
 Has Tallescope been inspected and is inspection record available?
 Is Tallescope in good order and serviceable?
 Is there a satisfactory Method Statement agreed?

Setting up

Inspect the Tallescope for damage
 Ensure all locking collars and pins are effective
 Ensure foot plate and tie bar are located correctly
 Ensure hooks are latched to the ladder

Outriggers

Must be fitted before climbing ladder – on raked stages must remain in contact with the floor
 Tallescope is unstable if one or both outriggers are omitted unless other measures taken
Must not move an occupied Tallescope if one or both outriggers is not fitted

Additional precautions when Tallescope moved with someone in cage

Only on a level stage
Only with outriggers correctly fitted
Only with outriggers no more than 30mm above the floor. Use a piece of 3x1 timber as gap template
Only move Tallescope on long axis
 Technician **must** descend before Tallescope moved sideways
 At least two stage level operators to move Tallescope
 Technician in cage gives all movement commands
 Commands to be repeated by stage level operators before movement begins
 Noise nuisance prevented
 All operators to be without hearing difficulty
 Adequate light levels when moving Tallescope
 Ensure floor is even and without obstruction
 Tallescope must be moved gently and slowly (**and never more than 0.5 metres per second**)

If in doubt **STOP!**

HSE considers the movement of an occupied Tallescope unsafe.

The ABTT after careful review following engineering research considers the above notes indicate a safe practice. However the final decision remains with the employer.