

## WORK ON OR NEAR WATER

The term 'water' can include sewage, sludges, treated effluents or any other liquid which can result in drowning or serious injury.

Where there is a risk of falling into water and drowning, it is essential to provide sufficient buoyancy to keep the person safely afloat to aid rescue.



### Ensure

- Your safe system of work includes control measures to prevent you, your equipment or any work materials from falling into water.
- You wear a self-inflating life jacket where there is a risk of falling into water. For aerated water, this must have buoyancy of at least 275 Newton's and for non-aerated water, a buoyancy of at least 150 Newton's is required.
- No lone working.
- Warning signs sufficient to warn site personnel, visitors and members of public of hazardous non-buoyant (aerated) or fast flowing water.

The following specific items will need to be considered as part of any safe system of work.

- Wellington boots / waders.
- Safety harness.
- Life buoy / throwing line.
- Rescue hook.
- Safety rope.
- Hanging catenary chain / rope.
- Safety boat.
- Portable means of communication.

Inspect all equipment before use and at intervals of not greater than 6 months and monthly for safety harnesses, ropes and life jackets. **NEVER** use any defective equipment, replace and remove from use.

As a general guide, under normal conditions, deep or fast flowing water may be defined as being 1 metre deep flowing at a speed estimated as being equivalent to a brisk walking pace.

Always make an assessment, taking into account underfoot conditions both on banks and within the water e.g. in soft conditions **0.9 metre** may be regarded as unsafe, whereas in hard gravel conditions **1.1 metre** may be regarded as safe.

**ALWAYS CONSIDER THE PRESENCE OF SUBMERGED STRUCTURES  
WEEDS, ALGAE, EQUIPMENT AND EXCESSIVE FLOW RATES**