

OVERVIEW

The use of Kiwimesh as a temporary safety net across the top plate provides fall through protection during installation of the truss structure and roof.

The main function of Kiwimesh, when used as a safety net, is to absorb energy in the case of a fall. As the net is secured across the full area of the building, the absorption value of the mesh is enhanced due to the "take up" across the entire area along with the wall flexing that will occur.

Note: The DOL Best Practice Guidelines for working at heights (April 2012) page 13 item 6 covers group controls of which the Kiwimesh is used to protect falls within the building walls.

Compliance

Kiwimesh complies with the Safety Mesh Standard AS/NZ 4389: 2015.

Precautions

Whilst the same code applies when using Kiwimesh over the trusses and as a top plate safety net, we draw your attention to the following precautions for top plate safety applications. These require a judgement call based on the risk of each specific site.

1. If work is undertaken high above the top plate, the degree of risk increases. This should be assessed on a site specific basis and additional safety measures instigated as required.

As a minimum, we recommend that additional safety measures be used if the apex (and therefore the height at which someone is working) is more than 2m above the top plate. This could include installing an additional safety net at an intermediate level between the top plate and the apex with the provision of an additional access point within the truss.

2. The degree of risk increases as the size of the total span increases. Where there are very large spans of unsupported mesh (for example, covering a very large room) there is a risk that the safety net will fail to prevent somebody hitting the floor due to the natural sag of the mesh. The risk should be assessed on a site specific basis and additional safety measures instigated as required.