

## ACCESSORIES/COMPONENTS

being exerted on a wing, fuselage or stabiliser. A restraint system, which is used in accordance with the OEM's guidelines and following thorough training, minimises the risk of a fall. If, however a fall were to occur, our system absorbs and dissipates the load generated, to better protect both the user and the airframe. Always dig deep in your research and question how systems work, what surface they have been tested on (i.e. alloys/composites) and what operating conditions they are approved for.

### Safety first

So, how should you start planning fall protection in a hangar? Firstly, look at your capability list; what aircraft do you have accreditation for and which aircraft do you see coming into and out of your hangar on a daily basis? Is it A380s, B777s, A320s, etc, or a combination



of wide and narrow-bodied jets.

In an ideal world, work-at-height safety planning will start at the blueprint stage, so lines and systems are an integral part of the hangar design. Forward planning inevitably cuts costs and maximises safety as your permanent system is ready and waiting before any aircraft appears.

Whether you access aircraft via platforms, MEWPS, ladders or staging, typically there will be a significant amount of GSE (ground service equipment) around – and this creates the added risk of limited fall clearance. Again – in the ideal world you would have total clearance underneath a wing or stabiliser, but in the vast majority of busy hangars, this simply isn't possible.



## CHAINSAW PROTECTION

Germany-based Cepak has introduced the Bracket Adapter which allows tree care workers to place chainsaws safely in the basket while manoeuvring from one job to another. The Bracket Adapter is attached to the side of the basket and holds the company's Toolprotect chainsaw holder in place.

The company says it is the first in its portfolio of products capable of attaching Toolprotect chainsaw holders on platforms. The adapter has an installation height of 360mm – 560mm and a minimum width of 265mm on the side of the basket. The slim, lightweight unit can be mounted by hand, with no tools, and the position can be changed in seconds. It is TÜV-Austria approved and has CE-conformity.

The Toolprotect chainsaw holder is the first of its kind with CE-conformity and is made of new technical elastomer – a cutting resistant, unbreakable, highly wear-resistant material. It is also highly flexible, minimising the danger of injuries. Its construction means the chain links lie free, so the chain is not damaged through vibration in transport.

Toolprotect chainsaw holder



Bracket Adapter

Advising my clients on access is very important – but access is the tip of the iceberg. Once your worker is at height, how do they then access the area of the fuselage, wing or stabiliser that they need to reach?

### USER-FRIENDLY FALL PROTECTION

If equipment is light, easy to install and allows freedom of movement to go about maintenance or construction tasks after training, it will be used. If it's heavy, complex to set-up and restricts movement then workers are more likely to avoid using it.

### UNPLANNED TASKS

It's often not the B, C or D checks that are likely to result in accidents (although they still do) as these are typically scheduled and well planned with strict procedures and documented tooling including safety equipment. It is often the unscheduled task that can compromise safety. Where work at height safety is concerned, it is never worth taking the risk; that five-minute job where a technician accesses an aircraft structure with no safety equipment, could result in a life-changing injury or worse, and in addition cost hours of lost productivity and potentially lost business.

### QUALITY SAFETY SYSTEMS

Your business is about the maintenance and repair of multi-million-dollar aircraft, so you obviously want to attract and retain the very best maintenance technicians. By ensuring their safety when working at height, you are showcasing your partnership approach and that you value their skill, input, and their life. High quality safety equipment gives both management and workers peace of mind. It's also an aid to productivity. Your crew needs to be able to concentrate on the task in hand; supplying top class safety systems enables all the work focus to be on repair and maintenance.

### DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Your customers want to know your operation will deliver best practice in MRO – they are entrusting their aircraft and reputation to you and your team.

If they see your workers taking risks with either no or inadequate safety provision, they might subliminally wonder what other corners you are cutting.

AI