



FEET ON THE GROUND WITH ECHALON

The "Working at Height" regulations, issued by the Health & Safety Executive, have been in force for a couple of years now. They were brought in to address the growing problems of falls in the workplace.

In 2005/2006 falls from height accounted for 46 fatal accidents at work, and around 3350 major injuries. Such incidents remain the biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injury.

While the regulations do not ban the use of ladders, they do very clearly state that use of a ladder should only take place when no other safer method of access is reasonably available.

The ECHALON raise-and-lower column by ALC offers maintenance access from ground level, with manual operation using no tools other than a special access key. A single operative can lower the column shaft, which is counterbalanced. The shaft will rest securely in the down position, and can be restored to the upright position using only hand pressure, thanks to the counterbalanced mechanism. In blustery conditions, the shaft can be locked in either position while the operative is working.

The folding mechanism means that the lantern head can be lowered for easy and safe maintenance access, with maintenance operations carried out by one man. Echalon avoids any necessity for hoists of any sort, with the operative remaining safely on the ground.

Echalon is made from aluminium, meaning zero maintenance, a life span of at least 50 years, and comes in a choice of stepped or tapered format. Embellishment kits are available to give the "heritage" look.

For some, the abandonment of ladders for lantern access will mean the use of a mobile access platform. This is an expensive option requiring expensive equipment, two operatives, and possibly road coning/traffic management.

Echalon offers an elegant solution, manpower saving, the absence of traffic disruption, and avoids the use of expensive plant.

And above all, Echalon offers safe working conditions – a vital requirement for all employers.

