

Voids, Apertures & Holes

Every year accidents occur where people fall through unprotected or poorly protected voids. Holes in floor slabs, service openings, duct and chamber covers are some examples. These accidents can be catastrophic, devastating and life changing.

These are the standards of protection we should expect:-

- Every void covering needs to be strong and robust enough to withstand exposure and any impact loads that it may be subject to.
- The void should be clearly identified, the covering brightly painted and clear wording cited on the void covering stating 'warning hole below' or similar.
- Larger voids may be protected with full edge protection and if void coverings are likely to be subject to plant traffic or any other similar additional loading, they must be approved by a competent temporary works engineer.
- If you are responsible for providing protection of voids, you should have been briefed on the method of fixing, removal and refitting of protection in your method statement!

Have you?

- If you are not responsible for the void protection, at no time should you interfere with, mess with or adjust the protection. If it needs attention, report it to your immediate supervisor or Interserve.
- If you see any problems with any protection afforded to voids **Don't Walk By**, Let your supervisor or Interserve know straightaway so the problem can be dealt with.
- If you are responsible for void protection, you must check the protection daily and rectify deficiencies immediately. You may be requested to complete a 'Hole Register' on which checks made will be recorded and copied to Interserve.

Remember:

Report deficiencies immediately, 'don't walk by'!

Ensure that if you fit void protection, it is good enough!

Expect and demand good protection of voids!

Never interfere with void protection unless you are authorised!

Further Information: CIP Manual, Section 7