

## Proud member of the Institute for Work at Height (IWH) in the Height Safety and Specialist Fall Arrest Chamber

With NOSA being a leading global supplier of occupational risk management services and products it was only logical that they would eventually venture into the specialized and highly technical field of height safety. With height safety becoming increasingly important from a legislative point of view (with both the Construction Regulations and Occupational Health and Safety Act providing clear guidelines) with the main focus on safety before, during and after working at heights, the role of NOSA has become essential in ensuring they provide clients with the appropriate services and training as to ensure legal compliance but also safety standards on a national scale. In identifying height safety as an environment where they can provide high quality training and risk management consulting services it is with great pleasure to announce that NOSA have become an official and proud member of the Institute for Work at Height (IWH) in the Height Safety and Specialist Fall Arrest Chamber. With NOSA having a wide range of clients requesting various consulting, training and risk management services, the question we can ask is: What is the importance and value for clients of NOSA being a member of this Professional Body governing height safety in South Africa?

**In order to answer this question we can focus on the objectives and activities of the IWH which includes:**

- Working at height being the common factor covering the full spectrum of this field.
- Legislation in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including the Construction Regulations of the Act affecting the work at height industry.
- Registered Schedule 1 Employer bodies of the Services SETA.
- Professional Body status given by the Services SETA, this being responsible for the certification and licensing of individuals.
- The development of unit standards, skills programmes, and recognition of prior learning programmes, using the same outsourced expertise.
- Interaction with the Department of Labour.

Additionally the IWH is extremely focused on having the views, inputs and participation of the industry (within the working at height environment) at large as to ensure they provide services that will satisfy the identified needs of that same industry.

As NOSA is in process of becoming an Accredited Training Provider through the Services SETA the value for clients completing such NQF aligned and Unit Standard based height safety training is thus extremely valuable in that it ensures:

- The provision of a designation to the learner (in the case of Fall Arrest), a "Fall Arrest Technician" confirming his competency through a License to Operate which can be seen as extremely important for both safety audits and legal compliance.
- As the accredited training focuses on all aspects of competency, it includes both formative assessments (in which theory and practical aspects are combined) and a very important summative assessment process which includes members finalizing their POE's though completing a workplace experience assignment where they have to utilize their newly acquired skills in their own specific workplace. For any employer this should be the most important aspect of the training as the learner is now ensuring that he has the theoretical knowledge but that he can also apply that knowledge practically in his workplace (a factor that was missing in previously).
- The learner will receive credits for his training which again is in line with the Skills Development Act of South Africa with the purpose of ensuring the development of the skills of the South African workforce in order to improve the quality of life of workers, their prospects of work and labour mobility.
- The ability for clients (of NOSA) to claim back a portion of the funds spend on this accredited training from their respective SETA's (through the SDL process) which in turn is based on the individual clients' height safety training requirements as identified in their Workplace Skills Plans (WSP).

As a member of the IWH and as a provider of risk management services catering for the specific needs of their clients, NOSA will ensure they align themselves with the broad objectives of the Institute which includes:

- Providing a unified voice for the Industry
- Setting and maintaining industry standards
- Promoting the awareness of the industry
- Developing guidelines and frameworks for skills development of industry players and the education of end-users

The accredited height safety courses which will be presented through NOSA and that is aligned with the following SAQA unit standards, include:

- US229994 – Assess a worksite for work at height and prepare a fall protection plan (NQF Level 4, Credits 3)
- US229995 – Install, use and perform basic rescues from fall arrest systems and implement the fall protection plan (NQF Level 2, Credits 3).
- US229998 – Explain and perform fall arrest techniques when working at height (NQF Level 1, Credits 2).