

### MINIMISING RISK WHEN WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Historically ladders have been extensively used when working at heights. However ladders do come with a cost with regards to injury. In Australia from 2009 to 2011 there were a total of 3,830 serious compensation claims for injuries sustained as a result of falling from ladders.\*

WorkCover (NSW) Safety Guidelines No.4503 Feb. 1999 states that a person should always have three limbs on the ladder at all times. This means that when working on a ladder with tools, this requirement may be extremely difficult to meet. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 states that you should only consider using a ladder if other alternatives cannot be used or are not reasonably practicable and a ladder can be used safely.

Access Holdings International P/L (AHI), an Australian company based in Sydney has developed a range of Quick Lift® mini scissor ladder replacement lifts, which provide a high level of operator safety. The UB & UBL manually propelled series are used where they can be pushed to the required aerial work area. The ultra-compact and lightweight UBL series is well suited to extremely narrow floor space and where access to the aerial work area is only available through a narrow entrance or by stairs. The UBM self-propelled series is used where there is a high frequency of use and where the lift needs to be driven to different work locations. Working heights are 3.5m to 4.0m (UBL) and 3.8m to 5.9m (UB/UBM).

The Quick Lift® series eliminates the need for “three point contact”, has a heavier load rating than ladders (UB/UBM -200/240kg vs 120kg), provides a safer working environment for longer duration jobs (where worker fatigue may be factor) and where slippery surfaces are present. Key features of the Quick Lift® series include:

- Compact footprint.
- Quick ascent and descent.
- Indoor/Outdoor use on flat level surfaces.
- Ground and platform control points.
- Standard doorway access.
- Battery powered convenience.
- Descent and Tilt alarms.
- Emergency down valve.



Further details of these ladder replacement work platforms may be obtained from the company's website [www.ahiholdings.com](http://www.ahiholdings.com)

\* Source - Safe Work Australia

Work – Related Injuries and Fatalities involving a fall from height.  
Australia, 2013.