

How a small mezzanine was the big solution to creating safe maintenance access – Satra Technology



Project included:

Project Management
Plan of Works
Mezzanine Install

Who's the customer?

SATRA Technology is an independent research and testing organisation which was established in the UK in 1919. The organisation has technical facilities across Europe and in China that serve customers throughout the world, and as well as testing products and components, they also develop, manufacture and sell test equipment. SATRA is a Notified Body for various European regulations including Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). They are considered a technical authority for footwear and leather - and a number of SATRA systems are recognised in the supply chain as setting industry standards for quality and production efficiency.

What was the brief?

Satra had worked with Cubex Contracts on two separate projects, so when they needed help to create safe access to heating/ventilation equipment in their Kettering workshop facility to ensure essential maintenance work could be carried out annually – they turned to us.

The equipment was located on an existing mezzanine structure and although the purpose built platform was large enough for that, there was not enough space for maintenance personnel to carry out their work or access the platform safely. This posed a Health and Safety issue which the client wanted to address as soon as possible.



What did we propose?

Initially we specified a general access staircase, but when the client explained they only needed access once a year for maintenance or in case of break downs, and really needed to keep as much floor space freed up as possible within the warehouse – we changed our proposal to include two cat ladders instead.

One of the cat ladders was designed to provide access to a new small access platform and the front of the equipment, the other ladder provided access to the opposite side of the existing structure to allow access to the back of the plant – avoiding the need for personnel to walk around the equipment in what was quite a narrow area.

About the project

The installation of the new small access platform and two cat ladders was completed in just one day on February 9th 2021. In order for us to ensure works were completed in this very small timeframe we visited the site on three separate occasions to:

- assess the client needs
- carry out a site survey to check specifications and measurements
- a pre-start project meeting

The contractors team consisted of one site foreman, two contractors and a labourer. The project was overseen by one of our experienced Project Managers, who was supported by the Cubex Contracts admin team.



One of the cat ladders providing access to the new small access platform.



Finding a solution to a H&S issue was needed asap



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