

<b>ALERT TOPIC</b>	'Collective' or 'Protective'	<b>ALERT REFERENCE:</b>	H&S RAV PLUS 01
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE:</b>	Everyone	<b>AUTHORISED BY:</b>	N Roper
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### INTRODUCTION

It is important for us to know the difference between 'Collective' protective measures and 'Individual' protective measures.



Left:

Scaffolding is an example of **collective controls** where the whole workforce is protected.

Right:

A harness is an example of an **individual protective measure** which only protects the user and is very low down the hierarchy of controls.

Collective measures protect more than one person at any one time, eg, scaffolds, airbags, nets, and they are usually passive (ie, they require no action by the user to work effectively).

Personal control measures rely upon personal protective equipment and only protect the user, eg, fall-arrest harnesses.

### REASON FOR ISSUING THIS ALERT

An external auditor recently noted that one of four CRL workers questioned was unaware of the difference between collective and individual controls.

### CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

When conducting risk assessments take a hierarchical approach and select collective measures over individual controls.

Note that individual controls create a much greater management burden.

