



# Federation of Piling Specialists Testing Datasheet No 15

## PILE TESTING - SAFETY

Specific hazards for pile testing may include but are not limited to the following;

### **1. Load Testing**

- Manual handling of items of test equipment.
- The forces induced in the test equipment during testing can be very large indeed. Thus a clearly marked and signed exclusion zone must be created around the test area and access restricted.
- During the test the following substances may be used: batteries, oxygen free nitrogen, petrol/diesel and hydraulic oil. The appropriate COSHH sheets are to be made available upon request.
- Working at height during erection and dismantling of the test equipment.
- The area around the test must be made suitable for the technician to safely work, i.e. levelled, hard-cored and without trip hazards.
- Safe and maintained access to the test area for lorries and plant.
- Lifting operations.
- Use of Working Platform Certificate for the platform within and around the test area.
- No excavations must take place around the test area.
- Specific arrangements for lone working.

### **2. Integrity Testing**

- A safe access needs to be provided for the test technician to gain access to the head of the pile.
- The pile cap/ground beam excavation must be clear of any standing water.
- The pile cap or ground beam reinforcement must not be in place otherwise there will not be safe access for the technician and protruding tie wire can cause injuries.

*Disclaimer:*

*Although every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the information and validity of the guidance given in this document, neither the FPS or its members accept any responsibility for mis-statements contained herein or misunderstanding arising herefrom.*