

Parapet design - folding rail systems

Architectural building designs often require uncluttered facades for aesthetic reasons. The parapet design often requires careful detailing to provide clean, sleek lines free from rails window cleaning apparatus etc. This is in conflict with the desired approach to ensure a fixed barrier is in place to prevent falls from heights.

In some cases the roof area can be designed to be free of services in order that roof access is for essential maintenance only, and access can be strictly controlled. Usually safety harnesses or lanyards could be incorporated to allow for occasional access.

However flat roof areas are useful areas for plant and services, and folding balustrades could be considered to provide protection. If a roof edge is a particular feature of the building design an installation such as Barrial folding rail systems by ICB could be considered, the barriers would be raised prior to walks on the roof commencing and simply lowered on completion.

Quite often the plant is set well into the roof area so it cannot be seen from the ground, here fixed barriers or enclosures could be incorporated to allow safe maintenance zones. Infrequent access nearer the parapet could be by an anchor system and lanyard or harness, ICB offer a (FLG) Lifeguard Portable System, which could be considered. This system does not require penetration of the roof membrane or mechanical fixing and offers complete flexibility for site operatives working at roof level.

