

Service risers - safe construction

The traditional way of installing services through risers is notoriously difficult to manage safely. The solution below had the following sequence:

- Temporary steel plates were fixed over the service risers as the profiled metal decking was installed for the floors.
- Services required to pass through the risers were designed (in some cases oversized) holes were provided where the design was not finalised.
- Service riser requirements were passed to the steelwork contractor who had the riser plates laser cut off site.
- The new service plates were delivered to site with temporary caps in place and were swapped with the temporary plates.
- Temporary caps were removed to allow each services in turn to be installed as required from a safe platform.

Advantages

- This method allowed services to be installed from a safe working platform in many service riser positions.
- Avoided the cost and time involved in providing scaffold solutions within the riser void.
- A neat final solution without the need (cost and time) to make good the service riser platform after the services were installed.

Issues to Consider

- Required co-ordination of various designers to provide their service requirements at the same time.
- Extra service penetrations can be cut after the riser plate is in place but requires design input to ensure the strength of the plate is not compromised.

