

## Raising Standards at Height: How SAEMA Supports a Safer Façade Access Industry

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With No Falls Week (18–22 May 2026) approaching, the construction and facilities management sectors are once again focusing on one of the most persistent safety challenges in the built environment: working at height.

For organisations involved in façade access systems – from design and installation through to maintenance and operation – the need for consistent standards, competent personnel and clear guidance has never been greater. At the centre of this effort in the UK is Specialist Access Engineering & Maintenance Association (SAEMA), widely recognised as the leading trade body dedicated to raising standards across the suspended access industry.

A specialist voice for the façade access sector

[SAEMA](#) represents companies involved in the design, manufacture, installation, maintenance and inspection of suspended access equipment. These systems – often seen as cradles or building maintenance units on the façades of high-rise buildings – play a critical role in enabling safe access for inspection, cleaning, repair and maintenance.

Because these systems operate in high-risk environments, maintaining rigorous safety standards is essential. SAEMA’s mission is to ensure that best practice, competence and technical expertise remain at the heart of the industry.

Through collaboration between manufacturers, contractors and specialists, the association provides a platform for sharing knowledge, developing guidance and promoting consistent approaches to working safely at height.

### Setting standards and sharing expertise

A key part of SAEMA's work is developing technical guidance and industry best practice. By bringing together experienced specialists from across the façade access sector, the association helps ensure that the latest knowledge and operational experience are reflected in the standards used across the industry.

This collaborative approach helps address the complexity of suspended access systems, which require careful design, correct installation and ongoing maintenance to operate safely throughout their lifecycle.

SAEMA also works closely with other organisations involved in work-at-height safety, contributing to a broader industry effort to reduce risk and improve competence across the sector.

### Championing training and competence

Training has long been a cornerstone of SAEMA's work. Ensuring that those who operate, manage or oversee façade access systems understand the equipment and associated risks is fundamental to preventing incidents.

The association has developed recognised training programmes covering both temporary and permanently installed suspended access systems, helping to ensure that operatives and duty holders have the knowledge required to work safely and responsibly.

More recently, SAEMA has also introduced innovative digital training programmes designed to make competence more accessible to a wider range of professionals working across the built environment.

For building owners, facilities managers and contractors alike, this focus on competence supports safer operations and stronger compliance with UK regulations governing work at height.

### Collaboration across the industry

Another defining feature of SAEMA's work is its collaborative ethos. By bringing together manufacturers, installers, service providers and industry specialists, the association creates a shared forum where challenges can be discussed and solutions developed collectively.

This collaborative approach strengthens the entire façade access sector, ensuring that technical knowledge, safety practices and operational experience are shared widely across the industry.

It also helps ensure that standards evolve in response to new technologies, changing building designs and emerging regulatory expectations.

### Supporting the message of No Falls Week

The importance of organisations such as SAEMA becomes particularly clear during initiatives such as No Falls Foundation's No Falls Week, which highlights the need for greater awareness, training and planning when working at height.

Falls from height remain the leading cause of fatal workplace injuries in the UK construction sector, making continued vigilance essential.

By promoting best practice, supporting training and providing technical guidance, SAEMA plays a vital role in helping the façade access industry reduce risk and maintain high safety standards.

A clear message for the industry

A short film featured on the SAEMA website captures the association's ethos succinctly: a sector working together to raise standards, share expertise and ensure that everyone involved in suspended access systems understands their responsibilities.

As the industry prepares for No Falls Week, the message is simple but powerful: safe work at height depends on strong standards, competent people and effective collaboration.

Through its ongoing work across the façade access sector, SAEMA continues to ensure that these principles remain firmly in place.