

Title: Supermarket Chiller Distribution Access

Ref: TI041a

### Introduction:

Chiller Unit Distribution equipment (DB) in a Supermarket environment is commonly installed on the top surface of the Unit. This DB may be located in any place along the length of the chiller, therefore access can be difficult. This TI is intended as a guide on how these DBs can be accessed and worked on safely. Ladders are best used as a means of access/egress to a workplace and should only be used for light work of short duration where 3 points of contact can be maintained.

### Information:

#### Selecting Equipment

Given the common position for these DBs is on the top surface of the chiller, we have determined that ladders are the most practical way of accessing the equipment. If it considered practical for a MEWP or scaffold to be utilised, this would be the preferred method.

#### Ladders

Ladders should be in good condition and examined regularly for defects, with an updated ladder tag attached. Only glass fibre or other insulated non metallic ladders with anti-slip rubber feet should be utilised. The ladder should be angled to minimise the risk of slipping outwards and as a rule of thumb needs to be 'one out for every four up'. Ladders are to be placed perpendicular against the top of edge of the unit, taking care to not cause damage whilst doing so. The ladders should clear the freezer-well handrail and barriers should be placed around the work area and warning signs displayed, segregating the inspectors from the Public and Tesco Colleagues. The ladders should always be footed by the inspector's teammate. Do not overreach: if you are working from a ladder, make sure it is long enough and positioned to reach the DB safely.



**Points to note**

- Ladders must not be painted (this hides defects), should be stored correctly, and be subject to regular inspection.
- Never take serviceability for granted, always carry out a visual check prior to use. Report any defects immediately.
- Never carry out homemade repairs on a ladder, and never use a ladder with existing home-made repairs, and never use a homemade ladder!
- Always stand ladders on a firm base. Never use milk crates, oil drums, etc., to gain extra height, and if ground is soft use suitable support. Consider staking at bottom.
- Never use rungs as a support for planks, or rest rungs on planks.
- Remove excessive mud, grease, etc., from footwear prior to climbing/descending a ladder.
- Always use both hands to climb/descend and face the ladder.
- Never overreach from ladders – get down and move them.
- Avoid using metal ladders against metal surfaces – the reduced friction makes them more liable to slipping.

**Significant Hazards:**

Risk of falls from persons  
Risk of objects falling  
Collapse of steps Ladders/steps slipping  
Back injuries when manual handling ladders and steps