Scope and Purpose

This document provides additional guidance to the Training, Assessment and Certification Scheme (TACS) document for the training and assessment of rope access deviations. It should be read and used in conjunction with the following sections of TACS:

6.4.8 Deviations: Rigging
6.6.8 Deviations: Rope manoeuvres
6.8.4 Passing a deviation with a casualty: Rope rescues

Rigging

Assessors and Instructors shall note the following TACS requirements for deviations to be rigged:

TACS **6.4.8.2.1** Level 2 and 3 candidates shall demonstrate the correct rigging of either type of deviation described in TACS **6.4.8.1**, with due regard to the angle and distance required to achieve the repositioning and **ease of use when passing in both ascent and descent modes**.

This should be brought to the attention of L2 and L3 candidates when rigging deviations. Particular care is required when rigging for inexperienced trainees such as aspirant Level 1 candidates.

Instructors should note that deviations with large offsets or angles may be used in rigging or rig-to-rescue situations**, but should not be placed where technicians have to pass them**. A typical example would be a large double deviation used to create a 'Y-hang' at the top of the ropes, but where the point of access and egress to the ropes is below the deviation with no requirement to move higher.

Instructors should explain alternatives to rigging difficult-to-pass deviations, such as re-anchors or rope-to-rope transfers.

Rope manoeuvres

TACS requires that:

TACS **6.6.8.2.1** All candidates shall demonstrate passing a single-anchor deviation in both ascent and descent modes.

TACS **6.6.8.2.2** All candidates shall demonstrate passing a double-anchor deviation in both ascent and descent modes.

Instructors should note that these requirements apply to all candidates. Therefore, deviations should be rigged so that they can physically be passed by all candidates. Assessors and Instructors should ensure deviations used for assessing rope manoeuvres meet the above requirements **for ease of use**. TACS **6.4.8.2.1**

Rope rescues

TACS requires that:

6.8.4.2.1 Level 2 candidates shall demonstrate descending with a casualty through a single-anchor deviation.

6.8.4.2.2 Level 3 candidates shall demonstrate descending with a casualty through a double-anchor deviation.

Assessors and Instructors should note that it is not intended that the double-anchor deviation should have a larger angle or offset than the single deviation, only that greater attention may be required to maintain double protection and independent attachments. Deviations rigged for such rescue exercises shall follow the principle of rigging with due regard to **ease of use**. The deviations should be connected to the ropes with normal operational karabiners. Assessors should not complicate rescue exercises with additional factors such as seized karabiners.

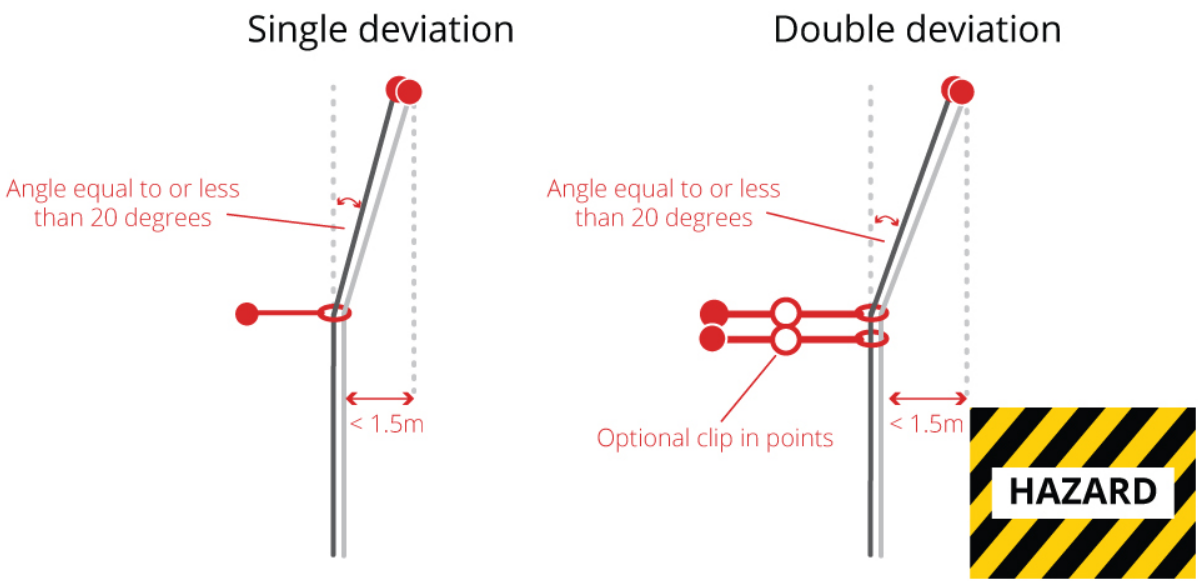
Rigging examples

The following diagrams provide rigging examples.

The horizontal distance between top anchor and deviation connectors should be less than 1.5m. This is to enable a suspended technician to reach the deviation without swinging. The vertical angle formed between the deviation and top anchor should not be more than 20 degrees. Therefore, a typical deviation of 1m deflection should not be rigged less than 3m below the anchor.

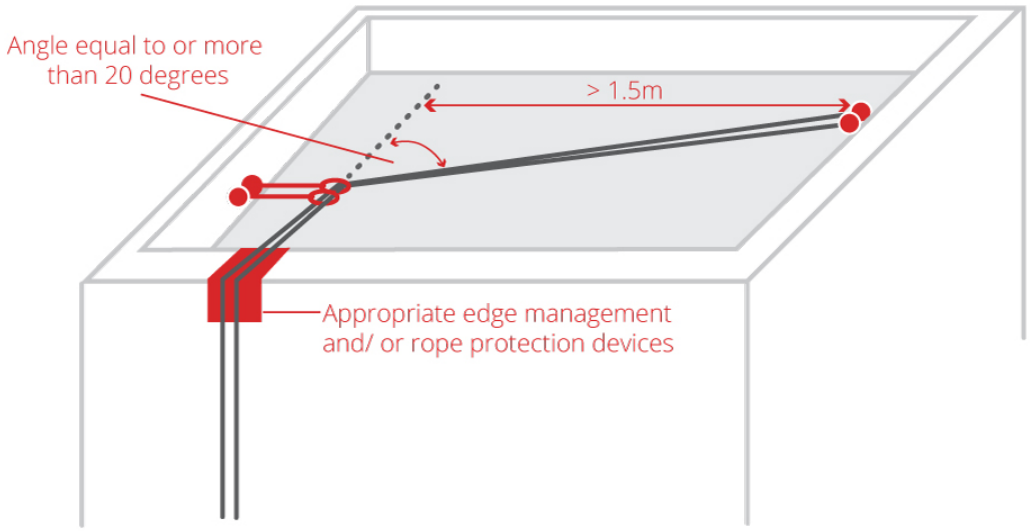
If the length of the deviation rope, strop or sling is over 1m a clip in point approximately 0.5m from the deviation point will assist passing and rescue manoeuvres.

Deviation rigging example 1



Deviation rigging examples 2 and 3 show double deviations with large distances and angles. These are used for rigging only with no requirement for technicians to pass.

Deviation rigging example 2



Deviation rigging example 3