

DIOHAS GROUP

Examples of positive design to reduce risks – Number 3 Submitted by Sheppard Robson.

Perimeter ceiling lighting troughs - maintenance access

Projects often have lighting troughs at the perimeter of plasterboard ceilings. These contain light sources (usually fluorescent light tubes) which will require replacement from time to time.

The location of the trough, its height above finished floor level, and its width clear of the adjacent wall, are all important features when considering access for maintenance and replacement of the light source.

Choosing a light source that needs little or no maintenance is the first priority, but it must always be considered that, at some time, access will be required.

The width of the opening between the trough and the adjacent wall must not be so narrow that a maintenance person cannot easily reach the light source. Where the trough occurs above fixtures and fittings (wc pans, wash basins, vanity units) access via a ladder or mobile platform will be restricted by the fittings.

To allow easy access to the light source, consider:

- designing the trough to be fully hinged or with hinged components
- Including access panels in the ceiling adjacent to the trough
- Avoiding such a detail above fixtures and fittings