

Safety Bulletin

March 2026
Issue no. 2



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Safety, Health
and Environment

Falling-Object Risks

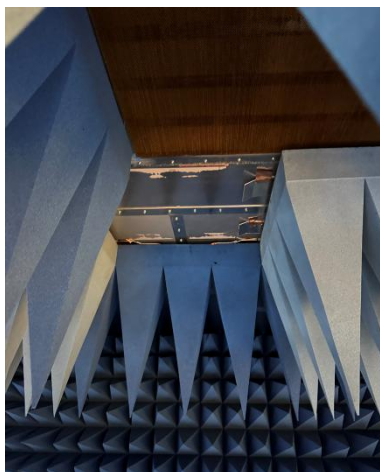
Evotix reference: I14680
Date of incident: 13th November 2025
Location: RAL NSTF (R114)
Group involved: Staff

Overview

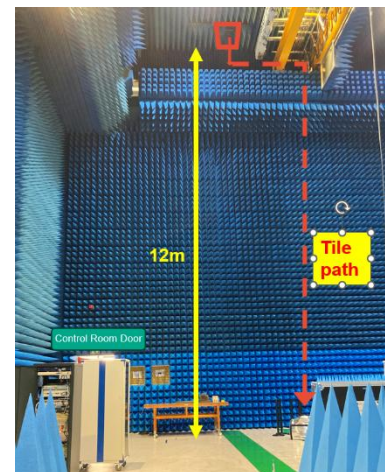
While an overhead crane was being moved out of its storage position in the EM chamber, a 7 kg radiometric absorbing material (RAM) tile, that had previously detached from the ceiling and come to rest unnoticed on the crane rail, was dislodged and fell approximately 12 m to the floor. No one was struck, but a staff member was working 3.5 m away. A subsequent inspection found no additional loose tiles and identified likely adhesive failure as the cause.



*7 kg RAM tile that fell
to the floor*



*Ceiling position from which
the tile had fallen*



*The path travelled by the
RAM tile*

Key learnings from the incident

- ✓ Assess **falling-object risks** for any overhead or gantry-based activity.
- ✓ Include **overhead checks** in pre-use inspections, not just floor-level visual scans.
- ✓ Use structured **high-level inspection methods** for hard-to-see areas.
- ✓ Review **fixture integrity and environmental effects** (adhesives, fixings, ageing).
- ✓ Maintain **safe-distance exclusion zones** where falling-object hazards could exist.
- ✓ Ensure Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) for moving equipment include checks for **overhead debris and obstructions**.
- ✓ **Retrospectively, extending secondary containment across the whole overhead area could have prevented the tile fall**, demonstrating the value of proactive design-stage risk assessment.