

Wenlock Health & Safety Ltd.

Doc. Ref. No. 002

General Risk Assessment

SCAFFOLDING

Contract: General Assessed by: Wenlock Health & Safety Ltd
Date: January 2016

Task/operation and location (including any plant/equipment in use)
Use of access scaffolding (non-mobile) for general building and construction work.

Hazards	Risk Ratings	
	Without Controls	With Controls
Falls from height	Very high	Low
Falling materials/equipment	Very high	Low
Collapse of structure	Very high	Low
Vehicle/pedestrian contact with structure	Medium	Negligible

Harm

- Fatalities
- Fractures
- Minor injuries

Persons in danger

- Operatives
- Other workers on site
- Visitors to site
- Members of the public if scaffolding encroaches or is in close proximity to public areas.
- Trespassers, particularly children, when the site is unattended.

Control

- Only trained and competent persons to erect alter or dismantle any scaffolding (**including** debris netting, fans or any other attachments). In practice, this means that all tube and fitting or system scaffolding must be erected by a competent sub-contract scaffolder.
- All working platforms including scaffolding must be fitted with suitable edge protection, which should include as a minimum two guard rails and a toe board
- The top guard rail must be at a height of **950mm** and the intermediate rail set so that there is no unprotected gap of more than 470mm
- Erection must conform to BS EN 12811-1:2003 (and NASC Guidance TG20:13),
- Any scaffolding that can not be erected to conform to a recognised configuration due to its complexity **must** be designed according to the principals of BS EN 12811-1:2003 and a copy of the design and supporting calculations held available on site for reference and inspection

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- ❑ Any platform that incorporates any type of landing bay must be designed with supporting calculations held on site; *all* landing bays must be protected by gates or similar
- ❑ The only gaps permissible are those at access points to enable people to step onto the platforms; however, care must be taken to ensure that access points are protected as far as reasonably possible e.g. with gates or rails around internal ladders
- ❑ There must also be a plan of work stating the proposed method of erection, alteration and dismantling of such a scaffold
- ❑ Scaffolders must be able to follow the industry guidance for safe erection, SG4:15. In practice, this reasonably means teams of 3 or more men
- ❑ Only the appointed scaffolding sub-contractor is permitted to dismantle or alter the scaffolding in any way. This must be stressed to all others on site during induction and enforced by disciplinary measures
- ❑ **N.B.** To ensure that an appointed scaffolding sub-contractor is of sufficient experience and ability to design, erect and maintain a safe structure, and their scaffolders hold a suitable trade license cards for the particular scaffolding system to be erected, it is advisable that the company is a member of the NASC – the National Access and Scaffolding Confederation. **Remember** that the scaffold client may also be held responsible for failures if a **competent** scaffold contractor is not appointed
- ❑ Always ensure that the equipment required is delivered to the site in plenty of time and that the site has been prepared in readiness (e.g. stability of surfaces)
- ❑ Use integral staircases in preference to ladders as access where possible
- ❑ If use of ladders for access is unavoidable, always ensure that they are securely fastened and that they extend beyond the platform by five rungs give a good hand-hold when accessing/egressing
- ❑ Always ensure that the working platform is of sufficient width to allow the safe passage of people, materials and plant (in practice, an absolute minimum of 600mm width)
- ❑ All platforms must be clean and tidy to avoid trips/slips and falls; stack, store and use materials and tools tidily, no trailing leads, clear up debris etc as you go
- ❑ Debris guards, nets or fans must be used when access is possible beneath, or close to, the structure.
- ❑ Debris chutes (within a protected area) should be used if significant quantities of materials are to be lowered to ground. On no account is it permissible to throw materials down to ground level unless the area is completely sealed off to *all* persons, and quantities are minimal.
- ❑ All scaffolding must be properly assessed for emergency egress; on larger scaffold structures, it may be necessary to provide 2 or more staircases or exit routes. Fire fighting provision should be to hand in all circumstances; on larger scaffold structures, several fire stations may be required together with additional alarm systems, fire wardens, etc.
- ❑ Warning/directional signs and lighting should be adequate to protect the public where access beneath the structure is available during day **and night**; should account for blind and elderly people, and all standards should be wrapped with yellow and black warning tape and warning signs *at eye level*

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- ❑ Traffic must be routed at safe distances from scaffolding bases to avoid impact.
- ❑ Before leaving site, access to any scaffolding (ladders, steps, ramps, etc.) must be barred or removed completely to prevent use by trespassers.

Inspections

- ❑ Once erected, it is recommended that the scaffolding structure be inspected jointly between a competent trained operative (CITB training on Scaffolding Inspection recommended) and the scaffolding contractor; this inspection **must** be recorded in the inspection register in line with the Work at Height Regs.
- ❑ A hand-over certificate must then be obtained, and all points noted on the certificate (e.g. safe loadings) must be read and adhered to.
- ❑ From then on, the scaffolding must be checked daily before ascent by the competent operative, and a more thorough inspection carried out and reported at least weekly (or after any incident likely to affect its integrity e.g. adverse weather, contact with plant) as required by law

Personal protective equipment

- ❑ Safety helmets, safety boots and high-visibility clothing mandatory and must be worn at all times on this site; boots must be clean (not muddy) to avoid slips on steps/rungs and the platform
- ❑ Use of gloves helps reduce skin abrasion when continually climbing ladders, etc.
- ❑ Safety harnesses will be necessary for the scaffolding sub-contractors during erection; ensure SG4:15 followed by scaffolders