



Safety Decking Systems Standards

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1. Introduction

The purpose of these safety decking systems standards is to ensure that falls from height are eliminated when installing joists, floors and roof trusses. Incorrect installation, damaged components or operative tampering with the decking system has the potential to cause serious harm. Safety decking systems must only be used where it has been identified as required via a working at height assessment.

2. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Commercial Department to ensure that the decking systems arranged are adequate and fit for purpose. Also, to ensure all safety decking contractors on our approved contractors list have safety schemes in procurement (SSIP) accreditation via FASET. The SSIP accreditation via FASET applies only to safety decking contractors, if the contractor is another trade such as a scaffolder, then SSIP through FASET is not required but preferable.

Site Managers must ensure that the decking system has been correctly installed by a qualified installer, trained on the specific system they are installing. Prior to any operative installing or dismantling safety decking on our sites the Site Manager must ensure they have a FASET CSCS card in the decking system they are installing.

Site managers must also carry out an initial check following handover and subsequent 7 day inspections to ensure that the system has not been tampered with and remains safe to use. The initial check and 7 day checks must be entered in the safety decking systems inspection register.

Refer to HSMS form [019I](#) – Safety Decking Systems Inspection Register

3. Types of equipment, procedures and training

A number of safety decking system products are available and the correct product must be selected for the task in hand. Operatives must only install, dismantle and inspect safety decking system products that they have received specific training for.

Site management must only inspect safety decking system products if they are trained to do so, via the FASET Platform Decking for Managers Certificate. This is sufficient training for all safety decking product types approved by FASET. Inspectors must be in possession of the Manufacturer's Instruction Manual for the product.

There are two options for the use of safety decking systems on site:

1. Safety decking supplied and installed/ dismantled by a safety decking systems contractor

Safety decking systems will be supplied, installed and dismantled by the safety decking systems contractor. The Commercial/ Construction Department must ensure that site management are trained to inspect the decking via FASET are in possession of the Manufacturer's Instruction Manual for the product.

2. Safety decking purchased by the business and installed/ dismantled by the business

Prior to the purchasing of a safety decking system the local Group HS&E Advisor must approve the purchase and be satisfied that there are adequate arrangements for the operatives installing / dismantling the safety decking systems. The Commercial/ Construction Department must ensure that site management are trained to inspect the decking via FASET. Also that the operatives installing/ dismantling the decking are in possession of the Manufacturer's Instruction Manual for the product. There must also be arrangements in place for at least annual inspection of the safety decking for any wear, tear and/ or defects etc.

4. Safe Access and Egress

Safe access and egress to and from the plot must be maintained for users and installers of the decking system.

Consideration must be given to how the decking installers will get themselves and decking components into the plot safely, including upper floors; ensuring that scaffolding does not impede the entrances to the plots.

For upper floor access, only approved designs or proprietary hatches must be used. These must be capable of withstanding loads placed on them and to allow the safe passing of materials and people whilst preventing the risk of a fall. They must be adequately secured in line with temporary works procedures/ design.

5. Loading the safety decking systems

Safety decking systems have different load capacities and this should be verified by consulting the Manufacturer's Instruction Manual.

If the safety decking system is being used as an access platform only product or the task does not require loading of materials on the safety decking system there must be signage in place reminding operatives that they cannot load materials on the safety decking system. Signage is available from Glendining

If the safety decking system can withstand loads and the task requires materials etc. to be stored on the safety decking system a risk assessment must be completed and a safe system of work put in place to ensure the load capacity is not exceeded. Where loading out on upper floors, consideration must be given to the structural capacity of the floor, which must be capable of taking the combined load of the system, materials and people.

Prior to the safety decking system being used to store loads the local Group HS&E Advisor must approve the risk assessment and safe system of work.

6. Onsite documentation

Due to the number of different products available, each site must have a copy of the instruction manual available on site. Site management must use the manufacturer's checklist when checking and countersigning handover certificates or when carrying out handover or weekly checks and

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this must be retained on site. The safety decking systems inspection register must also be completed.

Refer to HSMS form [019I](#) – Safety Decking Systems Inspection Register

Example of a manufacturer's checklist

<i>Task</i>	<i>Check</i>	<i>Initial</i>
Are all the panels still in place and fully intact (not tampered with, cut etc.)?	Yes/No	
Are all legs/ heads/ feet still in place?	Yes/No	
Does each leg have securing devices/ pins /straps/ elasticated bungee over and around the panel?	Yes/No	
Are all cam straps in place?	Yes/No	
Are all legs vertical?	Yes/No	
Are all voids less than 100mm at the edge of each supporting wall with a minimum of 3 sides/heads in contact with an exterior wall?	Yes/No	
Are all component parts in good working order?	Yes/No	
There is no lateral movement within the system?	Yes/No	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

Inspection procedure

1. Component defect identification and Pre-handover inspection – carried out by installer

A visual inspection of all system components to be carried out by a competent for damage prior to components coming to site and during installation and dismantling. The installer must issue a hand over certificate once the installation is complete and it has been inspected by them.

2. Daily inspection – carried out by user

Site management must ensure that each system must undergo a visual daily inspection for any obvious defects by the user prior to use. This is to ensure that it is fit for purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction manual. Training must be given to all users, via the induction process and regular Tool Box Talks by site management. Signage is available from Glendining reminding operatives to complete user checks.

3. Post-Handover and weekly inspection – carried out by site management

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The system and components must be inspected on handover by the relevant trained site management and

- Every seven days;
- After any accident or near miss incident;
- After alterations; or
- Adverse weather conditions where structural integrity may be compromised.

The manufacturer's Instruction Manual and Check Sheet must be used as a guide when inspecting. These checks must be entered on the Safety Decking Systems Inspection Register.

If the safety decking system is found to be defective or it has been altered in any way, the issue must be rectified by a trained installer and the system must undergo a new formal hand over inspection.

It is the responsibility of site management to ensure that operatives are prevented using safety decking systems until the handover certificate issued, a handover inspection has taken place and this is recorded in the Safety Decking Systems Inspection Register.

Monitoring

Site management monitors the safe use of safety decking systems via daily and weekly site checks. The Group HS&E Department monitors compliance with these standards via regular site HS&E inspections.

7. Further Reading

Refer to HSMS [guidance](#) – Safety Decking Systems

8. Tool Box Talk

Refer to HSMS [TBT](#) – W@H Safety Decking Systems

VERSION ISSUED	Date
<u>Version 1</u> Sections 1,2,3, 4,5,6,7,8	08.11.2021
<u>Version 2</u> Various changes following review by FASET	11.05.2023
<u>Version 3</u> Section 2 – added in SSIP and FASET CSCS card requirements Sections 5 & 6 – reference to Glendining signage being available	02.02.2024

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