Working at Height Safety Decking Systems

Audience: Site Operatives. Customer Care operatives

Presenter: GHSEA, Site Manager, Trade Supervisors

Safety Decking Systems

Safety decking systems are used throughout Persimmon Homes developments and are the primary means of fall prevention.

Safety decking systems must only be used where it has been identified as required via a working at height assessment.

The particular safety decking system used on site will be indicated at the site induction.

Responsibilities

The site manager will inspect the decking on a regular basis, but as a minimum, an inspection must be documented before first use, after significant alteration, or between trades (such as when bricklayers finish and joiners take over the use etc).

The decking system must be installed by appropriately trained competent individuals.

Operatives must carry out basic visual user checks before using safety decking and not carry out work if the safety decking system is not installed, installed incorrectly or damaged in any way. You must stop work and inform the site manager.

The site manager will ensure the fault is rectified and will let you know when work can begin again.

The safety decking system should only be removed after confirmation by the site manager

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 and site management must only install, dismantle and inspect safety decking system products that they have received specific training for.

Loading the safety decking systems

Some safety decking systems have been designed to be an access platform only and cannot be loaded with materials and some decking systems are able to be loaded with a considerable amount of materials.

Do not load out safety decking systems that are only designed as access platforms (confirmed at induction & through signage).

If the safety decking system can withstand loads and the task requires materials, ensure that you do not exceed the SWL of the safety decking system (confirmed at induction & through signage).

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Onsite documentation

Each site must have a copy of the manufacturer's user handbook and an installation guide

Inspection procedure:

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

A visual inspection of all system components to be carried out by a competent person for damage during installation and dismantling. The installer must issue a hand over certificate.

2. Daily inspection – carried out by user

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 installation guide. Training must be given to all users, this will usually be in the form of Tool Box Talks by site management.

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

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 manufactures check sheet must be used as a guide when inspecting. These checks must be entered on the Safety Decking Systems Inspections 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 from using safety decking systems until the handover certificate is issued, a handover inspection has taken place and this is recorded in the Safety Decking Systems Inspections Register.