



# Working at Height Scaffold

**Audience:** Site Operatives, Customer Care Operatives

**Presenter:** GHSEA, Site Manager, Trade Supervisors



## Scaffold

Scaffold is the primary means of working at height on new build construction sites and should always be considered when planning work at height.

Around half of all fatalities on construction sites are as a result of falls from height.

Fortunately, falls from scaffolds or scaffold collapses are fairly rare, but when they occur they tend to be significant and also sometimes catastrophic.



## Scaffold erection & adaption

There are different types of scaffold, including Tube and fitting, “system” scaffolds. System scaffolds consist of components which click or link together. Tube and fitting and system scaffold are not compatible and components should not be mixed.

No matter what type is used on site, scaffold must only be erected and adapted by competent scaffold operatives as directed by the site manager.

Site operatives must not adapt scaffold for any reason, any issues with scaffold must be reported to the site manager who will then take the appropriate action to rectify.



## Access to working platforms

Ladder access points must be safe to approach from ground level (safe access & egress).

All scaffold ladders must be free from defects such as bent rungs or stiles.

The ladders must be at the correct angle of 75 degrees or 1 in 4.

Ladders must be secured by proprietary ladder clips and extend 1.05 m or 5 rungs past the step off onto the scaffold platform.

All ladders must be parallel to the façade and access points must be fitted with a self-closing gate (including hop-ups).

Additional guardrails must also be installed at working platform entry height in the form of a boxed brace around the top of the ladder.

Ladders must be locked off with proprietary ladder locks, boards or removed to prevent access at the end of each working day and weekends.

Scaffold staircases when fitted must be closed off with Heras panels or other suitable methods at the end of each working day and at weekends.

Materials or tools must not be carried when climbing ladders, use three points of contact at all times. Materials and tools should be lifted up by telehandler onto loading bays.



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## Access to working platforms continued

Check to ensure that the ladder is secure before ascending and ensure your footwear is clear of mud.

External ladders should only go to up maximum of 2 lifts which is a maximum height of 4.7m. For access to the additional lifts designed/TG20:21 compliant ladder bays must be used with a single lift ladder to each lift.



## Working platforms

All working platforms must be fitted with double guard rails and toe boards to the external facade. Brick guards must be fitted on all working lifts. Internal double guard rails and toe boards must be fitted as required.

There must be no open leading edge on a scaffold or gap greater than 225 mm (width of a scaffold board) between the platform and the plot under construction.

When loading out bricks or blocks, the material must be stacked adjacent to the standards and not higher than the upper guard rail to prevent overloading of the platform or fall off materials.

Working platforms should be kept free from debris and materials which may cause slip, trips or falls.



## Remvoing waste

Waste chutes will be provided and loading bays can be loaded with a tipping skip to facilitate removal of waste, materials and tools by the telehandler.

The practice of throwing waste or materials off a scaffold platform (bombing) is not allowed



## Incomplete scaffolds

Incomplete scaffolds must display signage to that effect on all access points or remove / restrict ladders and staircases with ladder locks or Heras fence panels.

On no account should scaffold be accessed by climbing the façade.



## Inspection

The site manager will inspect the scaffold once within every seven day period that the scaffold is erected and in use.