

## Working on scaffolds

<b>Reason</b>	All work at height must be properly planned. Around half of all fatalities on construction sites are as a result of falls from height. If you don't follow the guidance you may end up as a statistic or, at best, in hospital.
<b>Outline</b>	This talk covers access requirements, loading, workplace hazards, inspections and security.



*Ladder gates should be installed at all access points*



*Objects protruding over a working platform present an impact or cutting hazard for workers on or moving across the platform*



*Loading bays should be marked with the rated capacity*



*A purpose-built stair tower provides a safer means of access and egress*



**Scaffolding provides you with a safe working platform – don't abuse it.**



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### Access

1. Don't climb up or down scaffolding tubes – use the lifts, ladders or stairs provided.
2. Make sure the ladder is at the correct angle (one unit out to four units up or 75°).
3. The ladder should be free from damage and defects, and be secure and stable.
4. At the end of the shift, remove the access ladders or board them up to prevent unauthorised access (for example, children playing on them).

### Loading

1. Don't overload scaffolding. Position loads adjacent to the standards (not in the centre of bays) as they are the load-bearing members.
2. When stacking materials, always leave a passageway at least two boards wide for other people to pass, or three boards wide if wheelbarrows are in use. Ensure that escape routes are kept clear so that they can be used in the event of an emergency.
3. Ensure materials are stacked correctly, safely and can't fall. Consider the use of brick guards where there is a risk of materials falling and striking someone below.
4. Don't leave tools or materials lying about on the working platform.

### Hazards

1. Guard-rails, toe-boards and brick guards must be fitted to places where people and work equipment or materials are liable to fall.
2. Don't use incomplete scaffolding. Report any concerns to your supervisor or manager.
3. Don't remove or interfere with ties, guard-rails, bracing, toe-boards and ladders. Alterations must only be made by competent persons.
4. Don't throw, drop or tip materials from height. Materials must always be handled in a controlled and safe manner.
5. The gap between toe-boards and mid guard-rails, and between mid and top guard-rails, must not exceed 470 mm.

### Inspection

1. Carry out a quick visual check at the start of each shift before going on to the scaffold.
2. Report any suspected faults or defects immediately.
3. Scaffolding should be inspected at least every seven days, after alteration or modification, and after any event that may have affected its stability (such as high winds). These inspections must be carried out by a competent person and details of the inspection must be recorded.



**At what angle should the access ladder be?**

**What action should you take on noticing defective scaffolding?**

**How should you dispose of material from heights?**

**What two things must you consider when loading scaffolding?**