

**CROSS-  
CONTAMINATION  
OF ACCESS PLATFORM  
DECKING  
SYSTEMS**

# Cross-Contamination of Access Platform Decking Systems

Access Platform Decking systems are required to create a working platform and eliminate the risk of a fall. The cross-contamination of components from multiple manufacturers could unwittingly result in an system that fails when in use, resulting in serious consequences.

FASET Members undertake component design and testing to ensure their systems (an assembly of their own components) perform when relied upon and do not test their components for use in conjunction with other manufacturers products. Any deviation from the proven and tested complete solution, including the cross-contamination of components, is not the responsibility of the manufacturer / supplier, and is unlikely to be endorsed by them.

For designs and testing to be carried out for Access Platform Decking systems, the dimensions and material properties of each component need to be known and understood. Manufacturer changes and developments to individual components also need to be taken into consideration on a continuous basis to ensure the created system integrity is maintained. This level of detail is only available to the manufacturer of the individual components and the resultant system.

Access Platform Decking systems should only be installed by competent operatives who have received FASET system specific training and are installing the system in accordance with the manufacturer's user instructions. Solutions that comprise of a mixture of manufacturers components are unlikely to have sufficient manufacturer's user instructions which are needed to:

- Create and deliver operative training
- Create and deliver site-manager training
- Refer to during the installation of the system
- determine suitable inspection levels and intervals
- refer to during inspections of the system
- refer to during adjustment or modification of the system
- refer to during dismantling of the system

FASET recommends that under no circumstances should you mix the components of different manufacturers. If you choose to create or use a cross-contaminated system, you must be able to provide clear justifications to support your decision and ensure that all operatives involved with the edge protection system have received sufficient training and have the appropriate user instructions available to them.

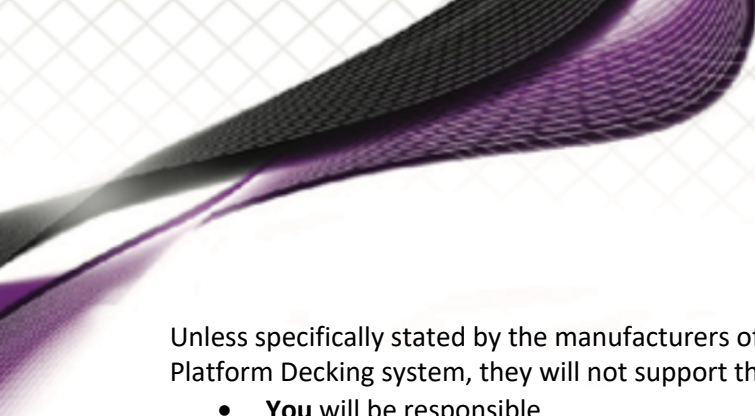
The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM) states that any person that amends a design or instructs another person to amend a design takes on design liability.

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Unless specifically stated by the manufacturers of all the components in a cross-contaminated Access Platform Decking system, they will not support their use. In the event of an incident:

- **You** will be responsible
- **You** will be accountable
- **You** will have to explain your actions if brought to court

## References

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/51.

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