

PLATFORM DECKING GUIDANCE NOTE

REV 3

FASET Guidance Document (Revision 3)

Access Platform Decking

Introduction

Working at Height is very common in the Construction Sector and remains one of the biggest causes of fatalities and major injuries. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 require that where work at height cannot be avoided, the fall should be prevented using collective equipment where practicable.

This Guidance gives information on proprietary systems on the market that reduce/eliminate the risk of falls. These systems can work alongside birdcage scaffolding or be a replacement to a birdcage scaffolding depending on the various manufacturers and limitations of the systems.

Legislation & Testing

All systems shall have load testing conforming to BS EN 12811-1: 2003 *Temporary works equipment - Scaffolds - Performance requirements and general design*. Systems shall be tested to the Advisory Committee for Roofsafety Red Book (M) 001-2014 *Test for Non-Fragility of Large Element Roofing Assemblies* (except for steel systems).

Where there are additional handrails incorporated in the system, they shall also conform to the Class A requirements of BS EN 13374: 2013+A1: 2018 - *Temporary edge protection systems - Product specification - Test methods*.

Load Testing Criteria & Stability

On request, all Manufacturers shall be able to provide evidence of load testing for all systems. FASET recommends this testing should be carried out by a recognised, independent UKAS accredited test house based in the U.K.

Each Manufacturer shall provide details of the load capacity their system is rated to under BS EN 12811-1.

Positional stability for free-standing Access Platform Decking systems should also be demonstrated as per the requirements of BS EN 12811-1 with the systems "checked against sliding sideways, uplift and overturning." (BSI, 2003)

Safety Check List

All system Manufacturers shall provide a check list for their system.



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Component List

All Manufacturers of the systems shall provide guidance containing a detailed components list, including the weight of each component.

Installation Guide & Product Manual

All system Manufacturers shall supply a comprehensive Installation Guide for their products.

The Installation Guide shall include:

- PPE required by Installers
- Limitations of the system, e.g. whether the system can only be used indoors, whether the system needs to be contained within a structure or is free-standing, height limitations etc.
- Load capability guidance including loading of decking with personnel, tools and materials
- System specific requirements for loading plans
- A note that systems must be installed on/in a suitable structure, with sufficient strength to support characteristic loads
- Details of assembly instructions
- Step by step images of the erection sequence
- Details of variations of the system (if applicable)
- Maximum gaps permissible by the manufacturer under current legislation (no more than 100mm in any case)
- Details of post installation check list
- Details of the dismantling procedures



Inspection

The integrity and effective use of an Access Platform Decking system relies upon it being correctly inspected at regular intervals as detailed.

Component Defect Identification & Inspection

- Visual inspection of all system components to be carried out by a competent person for damage after each use (following dismantling), and before and/or during erection
- Each system shall provide details of the inspection requirements for each component

Daily Inspection

- Each system shall undergo a daily inspection by the user prior to use. This is to ensure that it is fit for purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's installation guide.

Weekly Inspection

- The system and components shall be inspected every seven days, after any incident, alterations or adverse weather conditions where structural integrity may be compromised. The inspections must be carried out by a competent person, which can be evidenced by them holding a Blue Skilled Worker CSCS Card in Access Platform Decking, or by holding a valid FASET Access Platform Decking for Managers certificate. The inspection must be recorded.
- If the system is found to be defective or it has been altered in any way, the system shall undergo a new formal handover.

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Handover

All systems shall undergo a post erection inspection and handover by a competent installer. This shall be recorded and give the users details of the load capacity of the system.

Installer Competence

Installers must be competent to install, adjust or dismantle a system. This should be evidence by have attended the FASET Access Platform Decking Installers course which includes system specific training. To be considered as competent to install, inspect, alter and safely dismantle the Access Platform Decking System, the operative shall have been GSA-4 assessed and be in possession of a Blue Skilled Worker CSCS Card with a specific Access Platform Decking Installer endorsement on the rear. Trainees shall be supervised by a Blue Carded Installer.

Evidence of competence shall be provided on request.

References

BSI (British Standards Institution). 2003. *BS EN 12811-1: Temporary works equipment - Part 1: Scaffolds - Performance requirements and general design*. London: BSI.

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