GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

TEMPORARY DEMARCATION SYSTEMS (Revision 1)

Introduction

A Temporary Demarcation Systems' purpose is to provide a simple, continuous barrier to discourage access to an open edge and to identify safe area and access routes and not to provide fall protection or debris containment.

Where work is being carried out on sections of a large roof or floor, it may not be reasonably practicable to install edge protection around the whole perimeter.

A Temporary Demarcation System is not the same as a temporary edge protection system. Its purpose is to provide a visual barrier that should never be crossed unless additional fall protection measures are in place. A Temporary Demarcation System must never be relied upon to stop a person from falling. Bunting, tape or markings at foot level, such as a painted line, are not sufficient.

Design & Suitability

When a risk assessment has identified that a Temporary Demarcation System is required, it must be positioned a minimum of 2m from the edge. In many cases this distance will need to be increased as identified within the risk assessment which will consider all stages of the work programme.

Figure 1. Example of a demarcation system.

Unlike temporary edge protection systems which are covered by BS EN 13374: 2013+A1: 2018, demarcation systems do not have any

specific UK or European Standard. It is therefore essential that a temporary works design is undertaken by a competent design engineer in accordance with the requirements of BS 5975: 2019 *Code of practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework*, including wind loadings.

Consideration should also be given to loadings on the system in the event of materials rolling or being blown against any part of it, the coefficient of friction between the system and the roof / floor material, and the duration of the works being carried out. Health and Safety Executive HSG33 *'Health and safety in roof work'* suggests that when demarcation systems are used on roofs with a slight slope, it may be necessary to prevent materials rolling beyond the demarcated area.

Figure 2. Example of a demarcation system.

This system of work is only acceptable when the operatives working behind it are experienced, have received instruction on the use and limitations of the system, and where there is a high level of site supervision and control to ensure that workers do not go beyond the demarcated area. All operatives should clearly understand that Temporary Demarcation Systems do not meet the same requirements as edge protection systems.

There should be no unprotected holes, breaks or fragile material within the 'safe area'.

Inspection Requirements

Temporary Demarcation Systems should be subjected to regular and detailed inspections as required by The Work at Height Regulations 2005.

Once installed, the installer should hand over the demarcation system to the Client, confirming the system has been installed in accordance with the temporary works design. The Client is then responsible for ensuring the system is suitably inspected.

If any defects or damage to the system are found at any stage, works should be stopped and not commenced until competent persons have rectified the issue in accordance with the temporary works design and Risk Assessment.

Daily Inspection
Prior to works commencing within the demarcated area, a visual inspection of the system for obvious defaults should be made by the operatives.

Ongoing Inspections
Checked by a competent person if shorter inspection periods are required by risk assessment or site requirements.

7-Day Inspection
Every 7 days the system should be thoroughly checked by a competent person who has the temporary works design and Risk Assessment information. The inspector should be physically checking that the integrity of the system has not been compromised and that there has been no movement of the system. Tampering and damage (such as may occur from an impact) should also be identified.

Following Adverse Weather or Tampering
In the event of adverse weather or tampering, a detailed inspection should take place, following the requirements of the 7-Day inspection.

Following Alteration
If the system has been altered in accordance with the current temporary works design, it's suitability should be re-assessed and a handover certificate provided to the Client, at which point regular inspections should recommence.