



FASET
Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training



ADVERSE WEATHER

FASET Ltd, PO Box 138, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 9AD
Email: enquiries@faset.org.uk Telephone: 01948 78065

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Adverse Weather

Introduction

Poor weather can seriously affect the performance of an Access Platform Decking system. In line with the requirements of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, systems require inspection following adverse weather and prior to use. If any defects are identified, remedial action and a further inspection will be required prior to a Handover Certificate being issued.

Inspection

An inspection following adverse weather should be carried out by a competent person, the defects reported and access to the system prohibited until they have been rectified and a Handover Certificate issued.

The inspection of an Access Platform Decking systems comprises of two parts: an inspection from beneath the system and an inspection from above the system. If any defect is found during any part of either inspection, the system should be removed from service.

Step 1 – Inspection from Beneath

A visual inspection of the system from beneath needs to be carried out prior to anyone accessing the top of the system. Key inspection points include:

- Checking that system components have not been dislodged or are causing a trip hazard
- Checking that the legs are plumb
- Checking that securing devices (such as pins and cam straps etc.) are in place
- Checking that the panels are flush to each other and correctly located

Step 2 – Inspection from Above

Following the visual inspection from beneath, a further visual and physical inspection of the system should be carried out from above. The Inspection from Above is only appropriate if an appropriate fall protection (such as the scaffold) is in place. Key inspection points include:

- Checking that the structure does not sway when walked upon
- Visually checking that the system is tight between the walls
- Checking that all overlap straps are securely in place
- Checking that there are no excessive gaps between the system and any wall / party wall scaffold
- Checking for excess material or heavy loads upon the system
- Checking for frost, ice and snow on the system

Both stages of the inspection should be carried out in line with the manufacturer's guidelines.

For more information about FASET, contact:

FASET
PO BOX 138, WHITCHURCH
SHROPSHIRE. SY13 9AD

T +44 (0)1948 780652
E enquiries@faset.org.uk
W www.faset.org.uk

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Remedial Action

Examples of remedial action following inspection includes but is not limited to:

- Re-installing / replacing dislodged or damaged system components
 - This should only be carried out by a qualified Access Platform Decking installer
- Removal of frost and ice
- Removal of snow
 - Regular removal of snow is advised to avoid build up
 - Manufacturers will be able to advise on at what depth the snow will overload their system

Handover

Once remedial action has been taken, a further thorough inspection should take place and a Handover Certificate be issued before operatives are permitted to work on the system.

Further Reading

FASET Technical Bulletin APD-01 *Inspection Requirements for Platform Decking*

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