

FASET Guidance Document TAP01 (Revision 2) Tensioned Access Platforms

Commonly referred to as WP Nets, Walk on Nets, Tensioned Netting and similar proprietary systems.

Introduction

In recent years there has been an increasing use of tensioned systems to provide a collective and passive working platform for light duty access. Currently there is no EN or British Standard for the specification or use of these systems.

Systems that are not collective and passive in nature, for example lighter weight nets used in conjunction with safety lines, fall outside the scope of this document.

Increasingly, end users have been approaching FASET for guidance on the specification and use of such systems.

Suppliers / Installers of such systems must be able to provide the following technical information on a project specific basis as a minimum:

- Material and component specification
- Components and their use
- Forces from the components impinging on the structure from the installed assembly and the permissible live working load, including people, tools, equipment and materials
- Environmental Loadings, for example wind, snow, heat and cold
- Durability and resistance to Ultra Violet light, chemical attack, abrasion, hotworks etc.
- Design loads for the components and the system
- Lifespan of the components
- Installer instructions
- User instructions including loading limitations
- Identification and traceability of components as appropriate



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Design

All installations must be proven by design or testing to demonstrate that they are suitable for the intended activity. The following should be provided to the Client:

- Temporary Works Design Brief and Certificate (as required) in accordance with BS 5975: 2019 *Code of practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework*
- Risk Assessments specific to the application
- Components and their configurations
- Specific tasks or situations where secondary systems may be required
- Installation drawings
- Details of design loadings on the structure
- Load or user capacity

To maintain the collective and passive protective function of the system, the perimeter and phase edge protection must be considered.

Installation

Installation must be carried out by competent installers to a method statement and installation drawings prepared from the design for the particular project. Suitable management controls shall be in place, including:

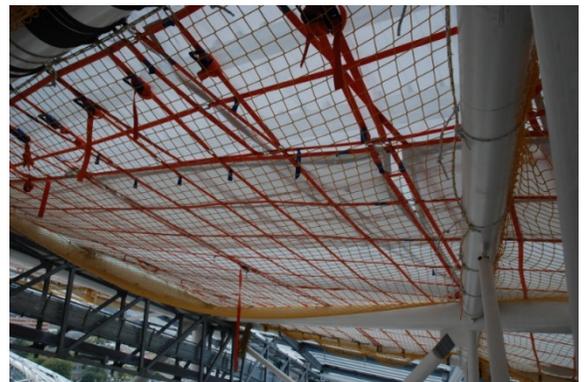
- Staff trained in the installation
- Personal safety requirements, for example MEWP License, Industrial Access Qualification, Fall Protection Qualification.
- Risk Assessments and Method Statements
- Emergency planning

Handover

All systems must undergo a pre-use inspection prior to formal handover to the user. This should be based upon:

- A checklist of the major components
- That the installation meets the design requirements and the details of the installation drawings

The pre-use inspection and handover should be formally recorded. The installer must provide information in writing to the user on the safe use of the system.



Access To the Platform

Access to the platform should be controlled by designated access and egress points. Authorised persons who have access on to the platform should be controlled by a Permit to Work system. People authorised to access the platform should be aware of the platform's loading capability before use.

Operations

Consideration should be given to the primary and secondary tasks to be undertaken around the system,

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for example cutting and welding, movement of glazing panels etc.

Other unrelated operations around the system must also be controlled to ensure they cannot adversely affect the system, for example craneage, storage of materials etc.

Inspection

Inspections should be carried out by a competent person who can demonstrate suitable knowledge to identify obvious defects and who is able to take an objective view on the system being inspected.

Pre Use Inspection

The user should visually inspect the system prior to each use for obvious defects or interference.

Periodic Inspections

Periodic inspections should be carried out weekly.

Interim Inspections

More frequent inspections may be required where conditions are particularly harsh or hostile to the system.

Interim inspections will be carried out where an exceptional event has occurred which could jeopardise the integrity of the system.

Maintenance of System Components

Maintenance should be carried out in line with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the equipment.

Repairs should be carried out by the manufacturer or in line with their recommendations.

Rescue and Evacuation

A rescue and evacuation plan must be in place before installation **and** use of the platform.

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