

FASET Bulletin ST03 (Revision 1)

Installation and Use of Toe-Boards on Stair Towers

There is a view within the construction industry that the installation of toe-boards are not necessary on Scaffold Towers because their only function is to provide access from one level to another.

A common belief is that toe-boards are only necessary when requested by the client or PC, or indeed only necessary when offered by the hire companies.

This is a subject that has received much discussion within FASET, largely based around the requirements of the Work at Height Regulations.

The Work at Height Regulations discuss the use of toe-boards on working platforms:-

SCHEDULE 2

“REQUIREMENTS FOR GUARD-RAILS, TOE-BOARDS, BARRIERS AND SIMILAR COLLECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTION

3. *In relation to work at height involved in construction work-*

b) toe-boards shall be suitable and sufficient to prevent the fall of any person, or any material or object, from any place of work....”

INTERPRETATION

A working platform is defined in the Work at Height Regulations as:

“Interpretation - 2 (a) means any platform used as a place of work or as a means of access to or egress from a place of work;

(b) includes any scaffold, suspended scaffold, cradle, mobile platform, trestle, gangway, gantry and stairway which is so used”...

CONCLUSION

FASET, supported by the HSE, can therefore summarise this as follows:

Scaffold towers can be used for access as well as a place of work. The Work at Height Regulations *Interpretation (2 (a)) working platform* states: “means any platform used as a place of work or as a means of access to or egress from a place of work”.

Therefore, where there is a risk of materials/equipment falling, either during work or whilst in transit, then a means of reducing that risk (toe-boards) must be in place.

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