
G
&
M
GROUP

G&M Safe Deck System

Training Manual & Installation Guide

CONTENTS

1 G&M Group

1.1 G&M Safe Deck

G&M Group (Safe Deck) Ltd is committed to providing effective temporary safety systems to the Construction Industry.
To meet this aim, we have developed a lightweight working platform called G&M Safe Deck. This system allows the user to work at height in complete safety.
The system can be made to free-stand where there is not sufficient lateral support or a structure to contain the system.

1.2 Unique Design

G&M Safe Deck is the only light weight working platform that allows a specialist scaffold to be constructed through it whilst still in place, thereby reducing costs and increasing productivity.

1.3 Exceed Safety Regulations

G&M Safe Deck provides an exceptionally safe working platform for operatives working at height. Its unique design and manufacture exceed the current safety regulations and standards laid down by the UK Health & Safety Executive. The system has undergone stringent testing at all stages from design to manufacture. G & M Safe Deck can be loaded to a maximum of 2kN/m2. It has a profiled non-slip surface for improved grip and its bright orange colour is highly visible.

2 Unpacking and Loading

- Break the packing straps that hold the pack of panels together.
- Load the panels neatly & safely in the workspace.
- Load the legs required & stack them safely.
- Load the base and Head Plates into the area.
- Load the required number of securing pins.
- Load the required number of cam/securing straps.
- If needed assemble the legs/base/head plates.

3 Safe Working and (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment

3.1 To enable safe working, a task specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement must be in place.

3.1.1 To install or strike the G&M Safe Deck System you will need your PPE to do so safely.

3.1.2 A Risk Assessment and Method Statement should also be available for the work you are about to do.

3.1.3 Ensure you work to your Method Statement, if you cannot stop work and speak to your supervisor/line manager and report to the site manager as your Method Statement will need to be amended.

3.1.4 PPE, as a minimum you will require.

3.1.5 Hard Hat to EN 397

3.1.6 Steel Toe Cap Boots EN ISO 20345:2004 / EN ISO 20345:2007/EN 345

3.1.7 High Vis-Vest/jacket to EN471 Class 2

3.1.8 Gloves to EN 388

3.1.9 Safety Eyewear to BS EN 166-1

3.1.10 Ensure you wear your PPE in-line with the manufacturer's guidance and your training.

In all cases the wearing of hard hats, foot protection high visibility vests/jackets and gloves is mandatory whilst on-site.

4 Competence & Vigilance

Be Competent

- Are you trained to install G&M Safe Deck?
- Are you trained to inspect G&M Safe Deck?
- If not, you will require training to install the G&M safe Deck System. Either the G&M Safe Deck installer course or for a CSCS accredited qualification the FASET Platform Decking installers course must be attended.

Be Vigilant

- Correct/Incorrect Information – Have you got it?
- Is the Structure Suitable?
- Has the mortar gone off?
- Is the build the right height for your system?
- Is YOUR work area safe?
- Is YOUR work area clear of debris?
- Have YOU checked your components for defects/damage?
- Have you got safe access to the working surface?
- Always be aware of whom the site first aider is and how you can contact them in an emergency should you need them.

If you can answer “no” to any of these questions, then stop and ask your supervisor/line manager or in the case of a safety issue speak to the site manager so any issues can be dealt with accordingly.

5 G&M Safe Deck System

5.1 Components

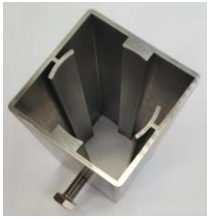
There are 10 G&M Safe Deck Components:

- 1000mm x 1000mm - Safe Deck Panel – 10.43KG
- 1000mm x 500mm - Safe Deck ½ Panel – 5KG
- Safe Deck Leg – 1.81KG
- Safe Deck Base/Head Plate – 0.28KG
- Safe Deck Securing Pin (Yellow / Black) - 0.028KG
- Cam/Securing Strap – 0.085KG
- Freestanding Adapter – 0.25KG
- Scaffold Tube Leg Adapter – 0.25KG



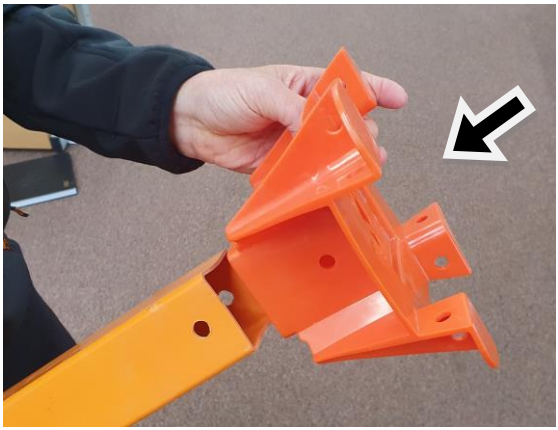




6 G&M Safe Deck System Components

Assembling the legs



6.1.1 Attach Head / Base plates to the Leg tube.

6.1.2 Put the securing pin through the pin holes securing the base & head plates to the leg.

6.1.3 The pins have small holes through the ends, this designed to have a zip tie secured through it. This will prevent the pins from being removed from the base/head plates.

7 Installing the G&M Safe Deck System

7.1 Installation

7.1.1 Prior to installation visually inspect the G&M Safe Deck components for any defects or damage.

7.1.2 It is not acceptable to mix the G&M Safe Deck components with other similar manufacturers components or attempt to modify the components in any way.

7.1.3 It is best to start by building the deck along the two longest walls first.

7.1.4 Starting with one panel in the corner then building of each open edge along the wall forming an **L** shape.

7.1.5 Then build outwards from the **L** shape.

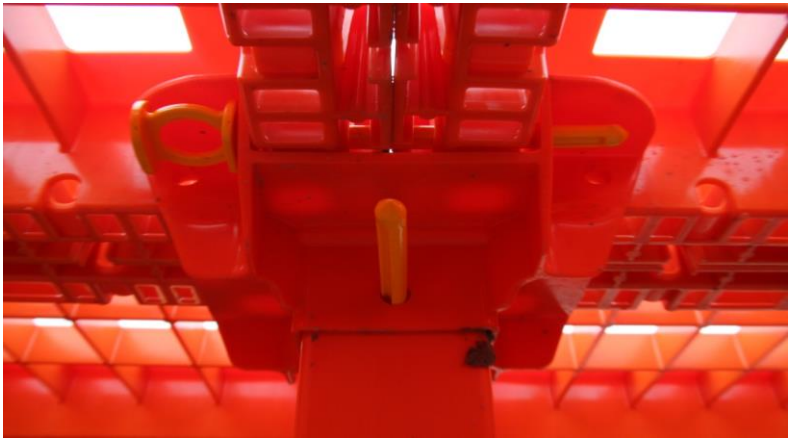
7.1.6 It is more efficient to put the securing pins in as you go securing the panels to the head plate.

7.1.7 When building outwards from the L shape build the deck as shown below. This way the deck will remain stable.

7.1.8 When positioning the panels take care to straighten the legs.

7.1.9 Make sure the corners of the panels are in position on the head plate.

7.1.10 Put the securing pins as you work it saves time later.



7.1.11 Now place the remainder of the panels into position.

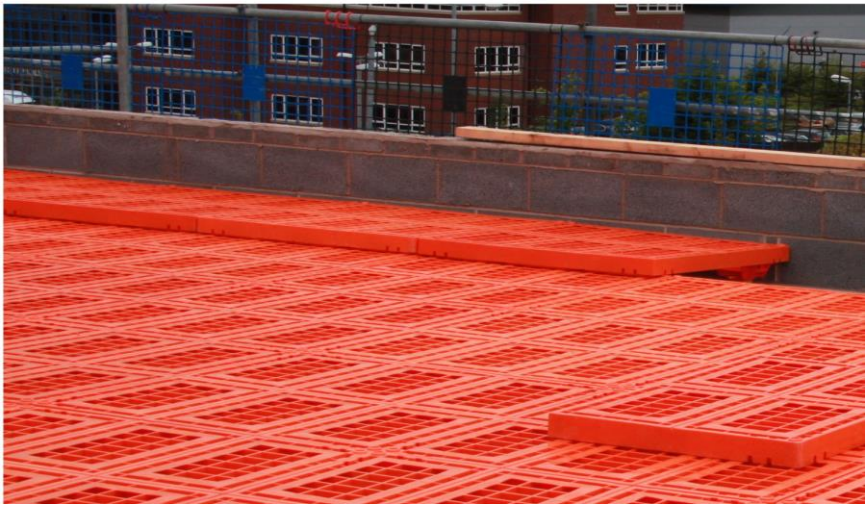
7.1.12 Remember to put the securing pins in.

7.1.13 When you reach the adjacent walls, there may be the need to create an overlap to fit the deck to the wall.

7.1.14 Try adjusting the head plate positions where you started you may gain enough space to fit the panel in.

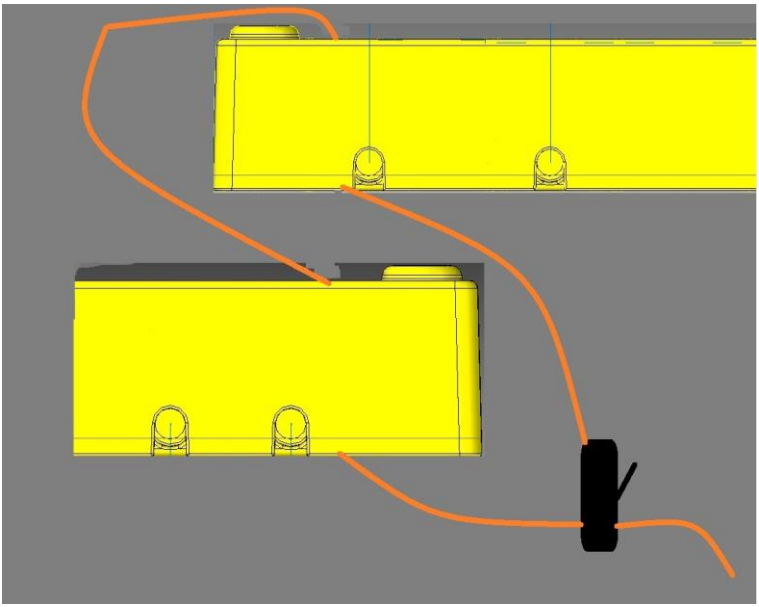
7.1.15 If the panel does not fit, you must overlap them. Extra legs and base plates will be needed to support the overlap.

7.1.16 You will need a cam / securing strap for an overlap, this will make the deck fit tight to the walls.

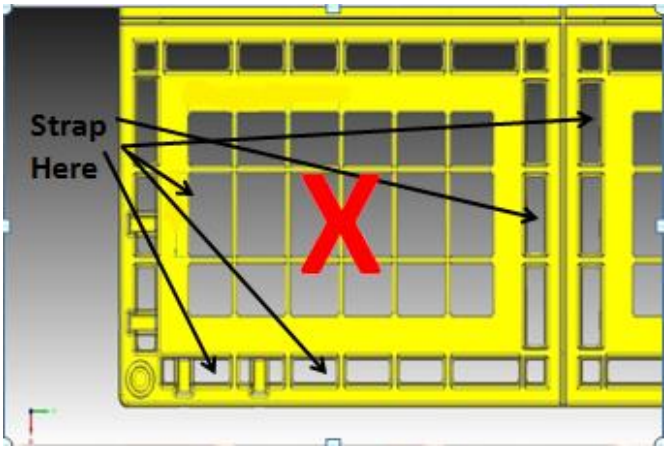


7.1.17 Ensure your straps are in good condition and the buckle is working, the straps are load bearing.

7.1.18 Put the cam/securing straps through the panels.

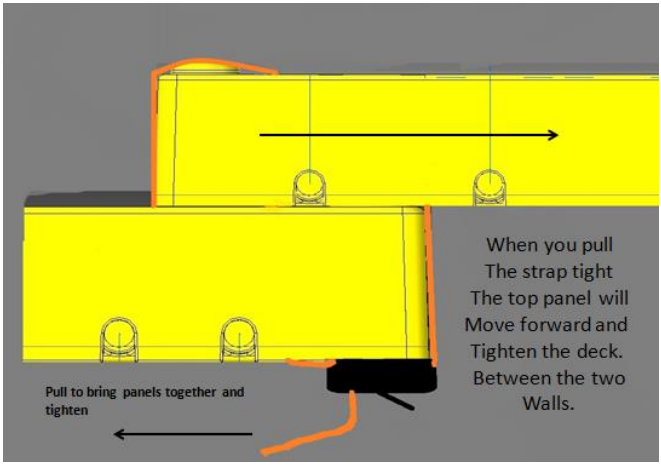


7.1.19 Pass the cam/securing straps through the panel in the positions provided. The lattice area marked by the red **X** is not designed for lateral loads.



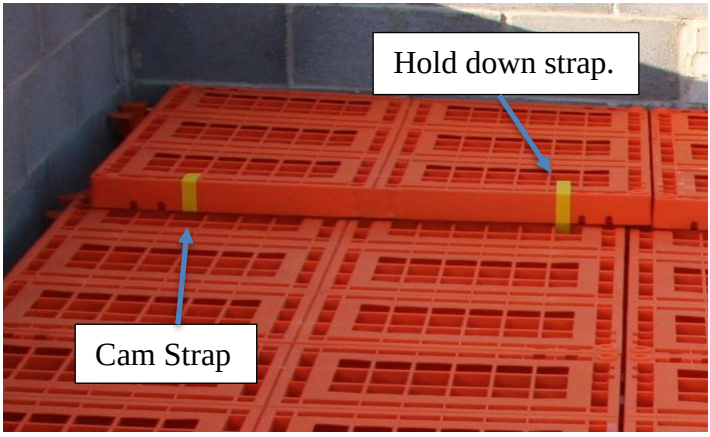
7.1.20 The cam/securing strap positions are located in the strongest parts of the panel.

7.1.21 Pull the cam/securing straps tight, this will tighten the deck eliminating movement.



7.1.22 Be careful to not pull on the straps too hard, as this can dislodge the masonry supporting the platform.

7.1.23 If in any doubt as to the suitability of the structure stop and speak to you supervisor / site manager.



7.1.24 When overlapping panels always put a Leg and Head plate into one of the head plates positions to support the overlapped panel.

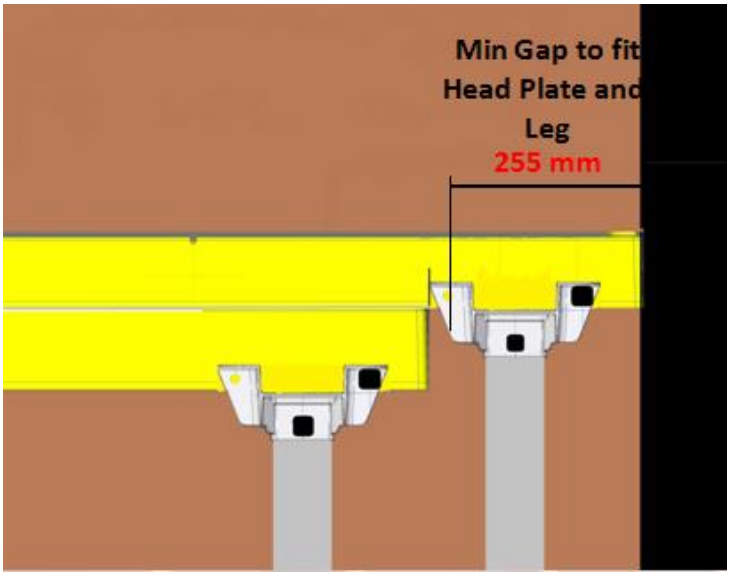
7.1.25 If you cannot fit a leg in there will be sufficient overlap onto the deck to support the overlapped panel.

7.1.26 You will need to use extra base plates for the legs used on overlaps to increase the height of the leg.

7.1.27 Where an overlapped panel is supported by legs, a single strap is sufficient. If not supported double straps will be necessary, one to cam and one to hold the panel down. Tighten them down to the panel beneath to prevent any lifting or movement of the panel. You may find that one strap used over the corners of 2 panels will save on the amount of straps needed.

Rule of thumb

If you can fit a head plate and leg in, then put it in!



8 Pre-handover Inspection

Inspection Check List

Prior to handover the G&M Safe deck System must be inspected thoroughly.

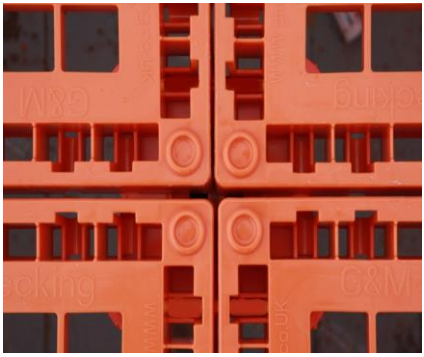
- Check the securing pins are in position, legs, head & base plates.
- Check the legs are all visibly plumb.
- Check the cam/securing straps are tight.
- Check there are extra base plates used on the overlaps.
- Check there are no gaps greater than 100mm.
- Check there is no movement in the deck (It should be tight to the walls, at least 3 e.g., a garage with a scaffold on the open end containing the deck

- G&M Safe Deck is **NOT** free-standing in its standard configuration it must be contained and supported by a structure.
- The system can be freestanding, this will require additional components. Ref section 16.

Inspection from on top

- Once you are happy that the Deck is safe you may inspect it from above (If **safe** to do so, only do this if the perimeter scaffolding is in place and safe to access)

- You can see very easily from on top of the deck whether or not the securing pins & securing straps are in position.



- When **YOU** are happy that the deck is correctly installed and SAFE to access. Hand, it over to the client/site management.

9 Inspection Routine

- Prior to striking the deck should be inspected for damage following use.
- Check for any Debris; Bricks, blocks, scaffolding or timber (may contain nails) etc.
- Check for damage to the G&M Safe Deck components.
- Make provision for striking and removal from site.

Faults / Damage - Check For?

9.1.1 Damaged legs.

9.1.2 Damaged base or head plates.

9.1.3 Damaged panels

9.1.4 Cut cam/securing straps.

9.1.5 Broken securing pins.

Damage, Caused by?

9.1.6 Cracks/Splits (Impact/Overloading)

9.1.7 Cuts (Knife/saw /power tools etc.)

9.1.8 Penetrations (nails/power tools etc.)

Components should be checked, both prior to and following use.

Damage caused by misuse.

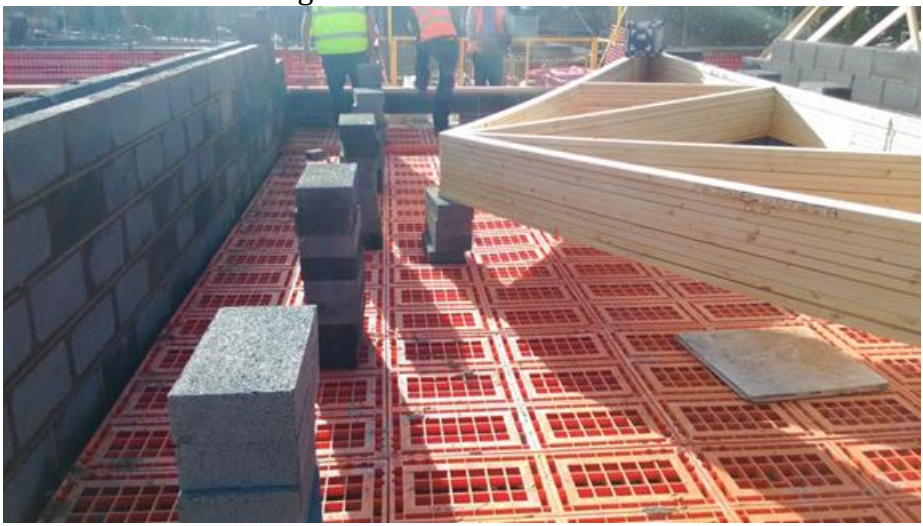
10 Periodic inspection

10.1 The G&M Safe Deck system must be visually inspected daily by the client. This is to identify any issues or cases of misuse or overloading.

10.2 In addition to the above where the system is in situ for periods greater than 7 days the system must be inspected by a competent person.

Visually Check For?

10.2.1 Any damaged components and cases of misuse or overloading.



11 Loading Information

11.1 The G&M Safe Deck system must not be loaded beyond its SWL of 2kN/m^2 Uniformly distributed Load.

11.2 In all cases the client/end user of the platform must be satisfied the supporting surface/structure can support the self-weight of the deck, the personnel working and any subsequent material load.

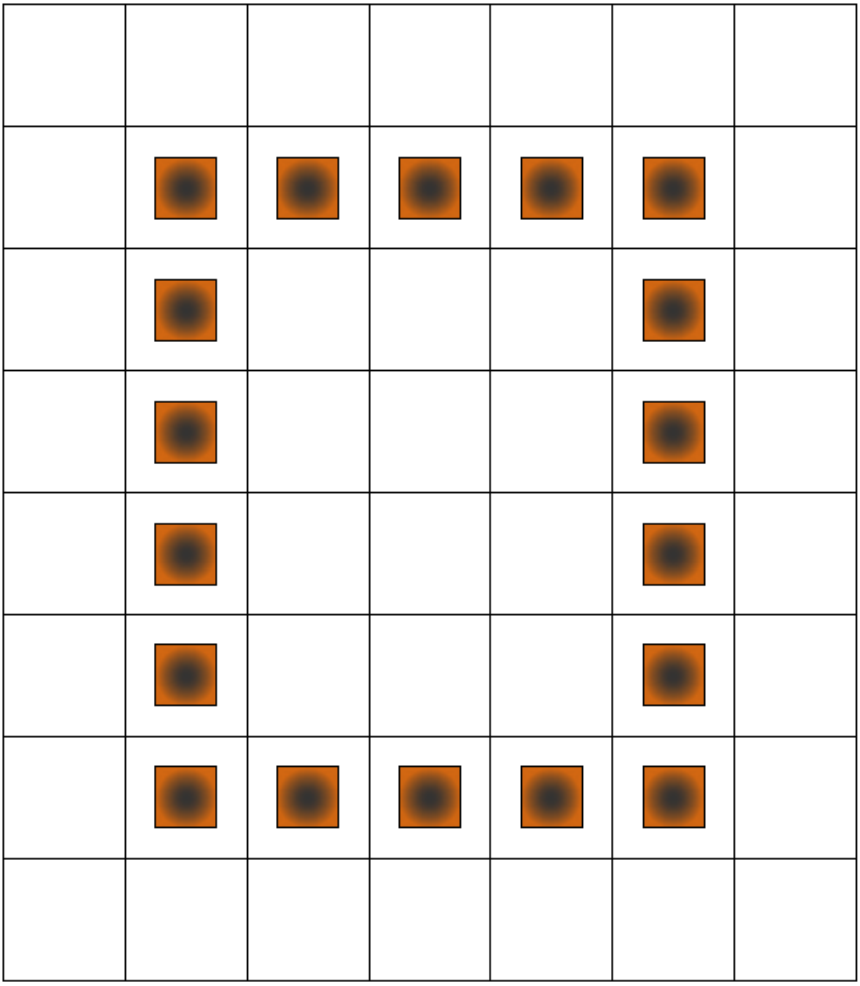
11.3 Under no circumstances should the G&M Safe Deck System be misused and/or overloaded. Cases of misuse/overloading must be reported, and the system components inspected by a competent person authorised by the manufacturer.

$2kN/m^2$

MAX

12 Loading Plans

Loading Plan 1 – Max load down leg 1.5kN.

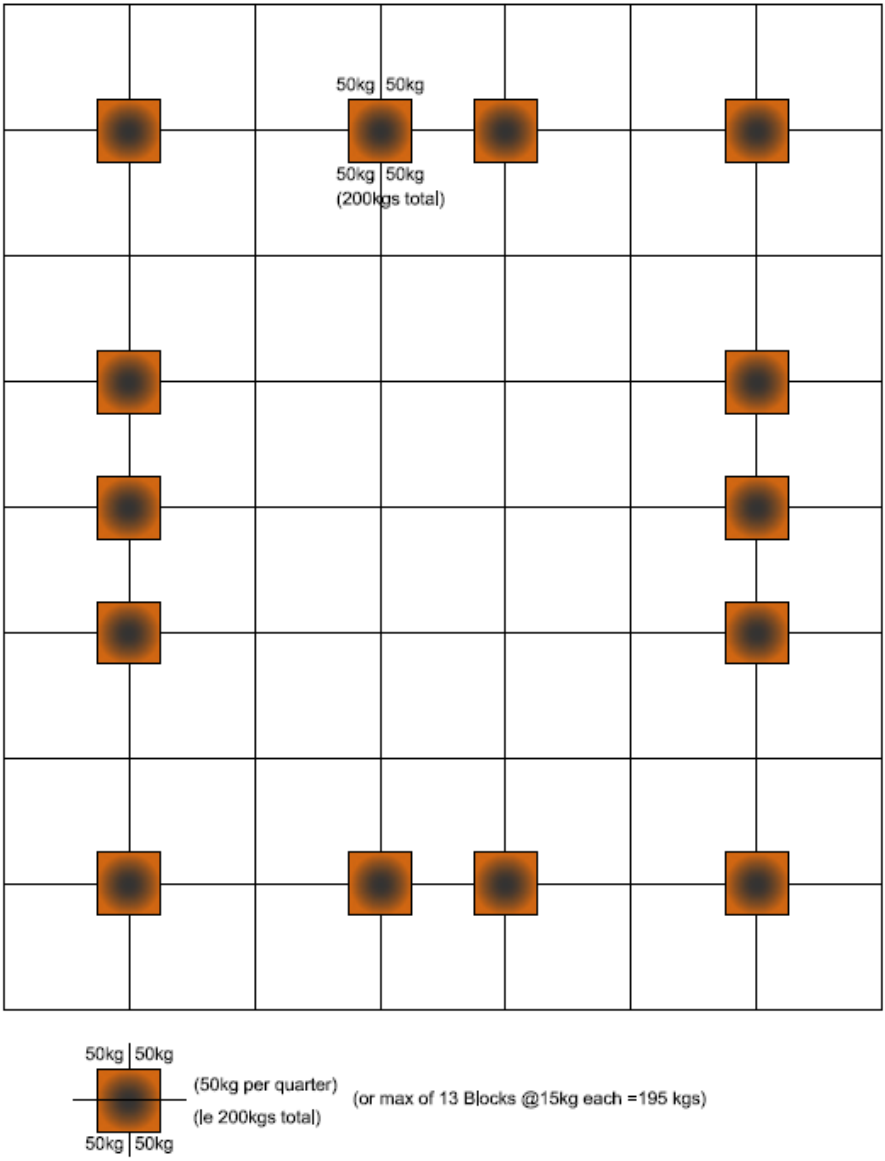


6 Blocks @15kg each = 90kg total
10kg mortar
100kg man

Load per board applied centrally

The above plan may be used on a timber joist floor without overloading it. There would be no requirement to back prop the floor.

Loading Plan 2 – Max load down leg 2.0kN.



The above plan may overload a timber joist floor, as such we would advise this plan only to be used on the ground floor. In all cases the client must ensure the working surface can support the loads applied.

13 Striking

13.1.1 Striking is simply the reverse of the installation process. These simple points can be followed.

13.1.2 Wear eye protection (Debris on the deck)

13.1.3 Remove the cam/securing strap(s)

13.1.4 Remove the securing pins.

13.1.5 Remove the panels and legs.

13.1.6 Place the panels and legs close to the extraction point.

13.1.7 Observe your manual handling procedures.

13.1.8 Use mechanical lifting aids to lift components down from elevated levels.

13.1.9 Store ready for next use.

13.1.10 Use the kinetic lifting technique when lifting heavy loads.

13.1.11 Where the freestanding adapter has been used, take care to maintain the stability of the deck so as it does not collapse unintentionally.

14 Examination

14.1 **Examine the components for damage.**

14.2 Examine the components for defects.

14.3 Quarantine any damaged or defective components.

14.4 Return the G&M Safe Deck to YOUR storage area ready for next use.

15 Care & Storage

15.1 On return to your storage area the G&M Safe Deck components should be checked for damage prior to storage and/or being put back into service.

15.2 Check for any damage or defects.

15.3 Quarantine any damaged or defective components to prevent further use.

15.4 Pallet the panels 25 high and secure with a strapping tool

15.5 Gather the legs into an 8x8 pack and secure them with a strapping tool (with base and head plates left on) Alternatively the legs can be stored in G&M Safe deck stillage.

15.6 Place the securing pins into a suitable container.

15.7 Place the cam/securing straps in a suitable container and place in a dry store.

15.8 Take care to store the G&M Safe Deck system components so as they are not damaged, either by plant, chemicals, or anything else that may be obvious.

15.9 Thank you for taking the time to read this product & installation guide, should you have any questions relating to the safe use or installation of the G&M Safe Deck System please contact us on 01606 834630.

16 Freestanding System & Adapter

16.1 Freestanding Safe Deck

16.1.1 With the addition of simple adapters, leg tubes can be modified to function as a diagonal brace. The use of multiple braces around the perimeter and internally provides the requisite lateral stability.

16.1.2 This is achieved by tying the base plate to the head plate of the immediately adjacent leg, effectively creating a triangle which along with all the other braces creates multiple triangles that provide stability and prevents collapse.

16.1.3 The freestanding mode of operation is to enable structures to be built around the platform, equally structures that cannot provide the necessary support can also benefit from a G&M Safe Deck System.

Freestanding Adapter Assembly

16.1.4 The freestanding adapter & leg tube will require assembly and setting to the correct size for the height of the decking in use.

16.1.5 Adjust the adapter positions at either end to the correct length and secure the adapters in place with a black pin.

16.1.6 Once the correct length has been set you have a brace. This process will need to be repeated for each brace required and can be done prior to installation away from site if necessary.

16.1.7 The braces must be installed by connecting to each head plate around the perimeter of the decking and then down to the base plate of the adjacent leg.

16.1.8 Once one side of the deck has been braced the opposite side should be braced so as the braces alternate in direction, this creates a more stable platform.

16.1.9 On larger platforms internal bracing should also be installed to further increase stability.

16.1.10 This should be installed every other meter towards the centre, the braces should alternate with those previously installed.

16.1.11 Be sure to use the black securing pins for assembling the braces and connecting to the base/head plates & panels. The black pins are stronger and intended for this purpose.

16.1.12 If you are in any doubt as to how to setup the freestanding system up properly, please contact G&M Safe Deck Ltd for advice and training.

16.1.13 **Adapter Assembled**

16.2 Edge Protection

16.2.1 In normal operation the G&M Safe Deck System is supported by the structure and subsequently the perimeter scaffolding provides the external working platform, access and integrated guard rails or Edge Protection.

16.2.2 Where the G&M Safe Deck System is being used as a lone freestanding working platform, Edge protection will be necessary. This can be simply done using tube & coupler a temporary works design will be necessary.

16.2.3 G&M Safe Deck is currently developing system specific Edge Protection for the Safe Deck system.

16.3 Access onto the Decking / Working Level

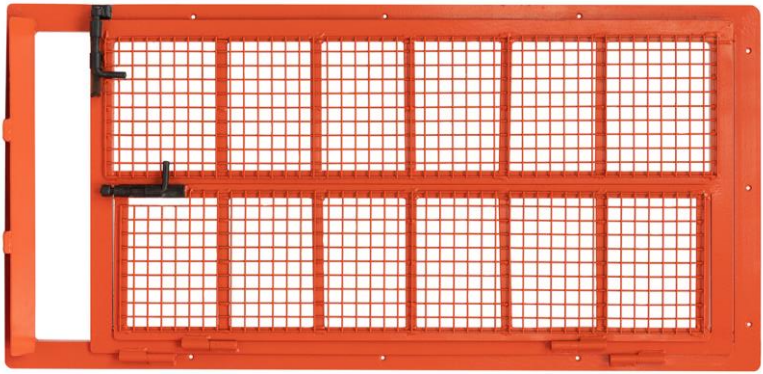
16.3.1 G&M Safe Deck currently has 3 different sizes of access hatch that can be installed either into the platform or into a chamber joist floor to enable safe access for both personnel and materials via a ladder. For more information on the hatches please contact the G&M office on 01606 834630.

16.3.2 The purpose of an access hatch is to provide a safe means of access onto a platform or for access between levels.

16.3.3 It is imperative that operatives can satisfy themselves that the access from ground to first floor or any other working surface is safe. Also, that when access is onto upper floor levels is required, the working surface can support the operatives, their equipment, and any subsequent loading.

16.3.4 Where you have used a hatch for access / egress, be sure not to obstruct the hatch by placing a leg on top of it. You must arrange the decking so as legs do not fall upon the hatch or access point.

16.4 **Hatch Example.**



16.5 Where temporary void coverings are in place, such as would be used over a stair well. The principal contractor must ensure these are safe to access in-line with the Work at Height Regs 2005 Schedule 3 pt1. In addition, the cover must be designed in-line with the requirements of BS5975. Be installed by a competent person and handed over as complete and safe to access. Also, the cover must be visually inspected by a competent person daily to ensure it is safe.

17 G&M M.A.P System

17.1 G&M Safe Deck supply a temporary void cover called the G&M M.A.P System which is available for hire or sale. Please call 01606 834630 should this be a requirement for your site.

Course / Inspection Notes:

G&M Group Ltd
7A Brooks Lane
Middlewich
Cheshire CW10 0JH
www.gmsafetdeck.com
office@gmsafedeck.co.uk
Tel: 01606 834630
Fax: 01606 835417