

FASET Bulletin APD10 (Revision 1) (Draft)

Structural Security and Rigidity for the Installation of Access Platform Decking Systems

The supporting structure for Access Platform Decking Systems must be in a suitable condition to accept the loads applied by any temporary works applied to it.

The safety of any installed Access Platform Decking System relies on.

- **The foundations** & ground level being solid and level, including any screeded surface that may contain underfloor heating, in this case point loads must be considered.
- **The Blockwork** being a suitable height for the system being installed (obtain advice from your installer on the height required)
- The blockwork being backed up and **tied in, both skins, internal and external** at all levels, ground floor to first and so on.
- The blockwork & **mortar being cured and suitable time for the curing to take place**. Especially regarding silo mortars which contain considerable amounts of retardant chemical.
- Upper floor levels are **completed and signed off** by the joiner, including any **Temporary Access Hatch**.
- **Timber Frame Houses** must be structurally sound and rigid. Any internal stud walls suitably supported and secured to prevent any lateral movement. This is often achieved using bracing. Bracing can affect the installation of Platform Decking Systems; The Timber Frame installer should liaise with the Access Platform Decking installer to ensure compatibility.

All of the above can be/are considered to be temporary works until completed, signed off and handed over to the principal contractor/client.

Access Platform Decking Systems are items of Temporary Works. They take the necessary requisite support from the structure which is in a temporary condition. As such it is imperative that all home builders take the necessary steps to ensure that prior to arranging for installation of Access Platform Decking, that their structure is in a suitable condition to allow for and support the Access Platform Decking System being installed.

BS5975 (Code of Practice for Temporary Works Procedures and the Permissible Stress Design of Falsework) Requires Principal Contractors to have in place adequate arrangements for controlling the risk that can arise from the use of temporary works. PC's must also have officially appointed a Temporary Works Coordinator, whose role it is to ensure that where necessary, designs are produced for Temporary Works and adequately checked, and that the works are built to the design.

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For example, Temporary Works on-site can include, but not limited to, Access Platform Decking, Safety Netting, Edge Protection, Access Stair Towers, Scaffolding, Site Fencing, Site Cabins, Mortar Silo Pads, Tower Crane Pads. Basically, anything that imposes a load upon the ground or the structure whilst in a Temporary condition - this includes the ground.

Examples of blockwork which would not provide the requisite support. This is due to the insufficient height of the external brickwork with the internal blockwork not tied in.

Example 1



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Example 2



Example 3



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