

Guide to Good Practice for Scaffolding with Tubes and Fittings

Further to the issue of Technically Speaking No 8, issued in April 2006, and following in depth discussions with our members, main contractors and interested parties, including the HSE, the NASC have now published TG20:08

TG20:08 represents new thinking in establishing the capabilities of scaffolding. It means that the requirements in BS EN 12811-1 were reconsidered in the context of good scaffolding practice and some have been changed. Fundamentally, the principles of BS 5973 remained unchanged and there are very few changes for the scaffolder, day to day. To ensure TG20 is easily accessible, it is divided into two volumes and it has been brought into line with best practice originally established by BS 5973.

TG20:08 has been completely revised since the 05 version was published and includes:

- 1) a simplified approach to make it user friendly and more accessible to readers;
- 2) a requirement that ledger bracing is in place at all times and is not removed even temporarily. Although this does not comply with BS EN 12811-1, it has now been concluded that allowing the removal of ledger bracing is not appropriate and is often unsafe;
- 3) other commonly used scaffolds, such as those with two inside boards;
- 4) an update on the engineering assumptions and possible tie patterns used in order to enhance the buildability of the scaffolds (so that they will not collapse in high winds);
- 5) a revision to façade bracing which is now required every six bays;
- 6) a return to light duty loading on inside boards.

With the publication of TG20:08, the HSE envisages that all NASC members and industry will increasingly use the new guidance and be working to TG20:08 as best practice by the end of 2010. To support TG20:08, training modules are being developed for scaffolders and ASITO (Access and Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation) have agreed to produce a toolbox talk giving an overview of TG20:08 and to update all CISRS (Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme) courses. The NASC is also reviewing and preparing the training requirements for Supervisors, Managers, Estimators, Engineers and Safety Professionals. These courses will be available shortly.

However, in the interim period while the training of staff is undertaken and before the implications of TG20:08 are fully absorbed, it is the view of the HSE and the NASC that best practice for standard basic tube and fitting scaffolds remains achievable by following BS 5973 amended to follow the tie patterns and façade bracing detailed in TG20:08.

It is acceptable to use different tying patterns for specially designed structures and our members should continue to involve temporary works engineers as required. The NASC preference is that temporary works calculations should continue to be produced using the permissible stress approach as this method is more widely understood and used.

Whilst every effort has been made to provide reliable and accurate information, we would welcome any corrections to information provided by the Writer which may not be entirely accurate, therefore and for this reason, the NASC or indeed the Writer, cannot accept responsibility for any misinformation posted.

