



TAYLOR'S HOISTS

BY BRAND SAFWAY

Lyndon / SGB

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MASTCLIMBERS

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SG4:22 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations

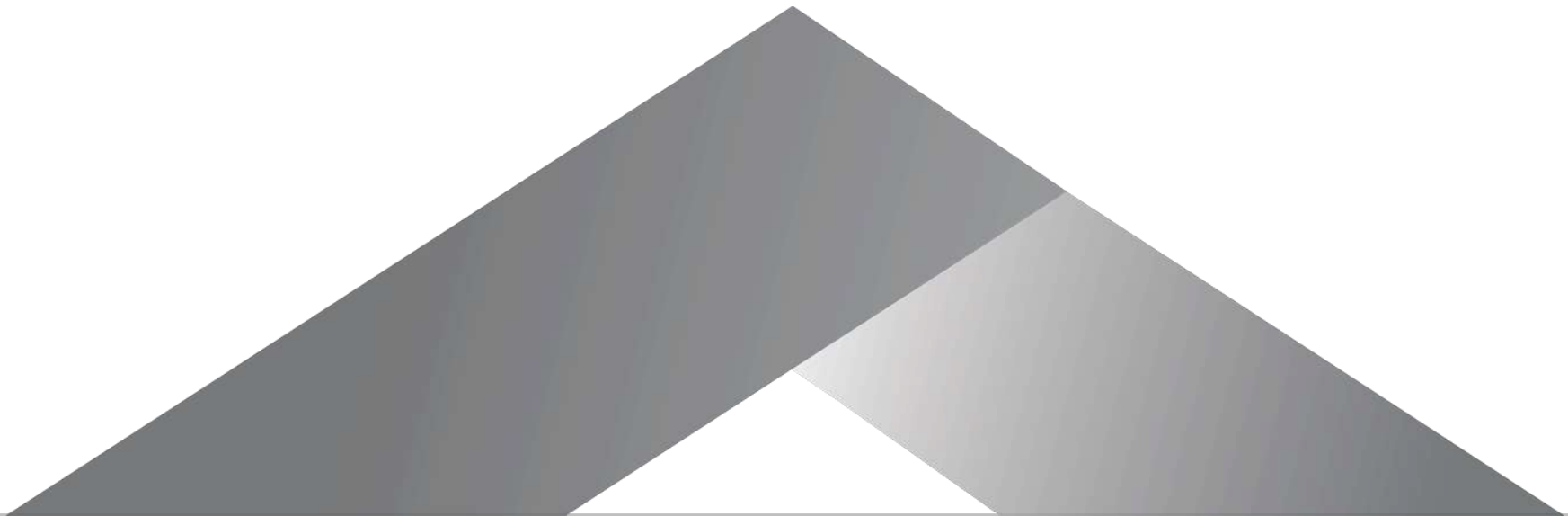


Introduction

Mark Collinson | SHEQ Director

Phone: +44 7968 605222

Email: mcollinson@lyndon-sgb.co.uk

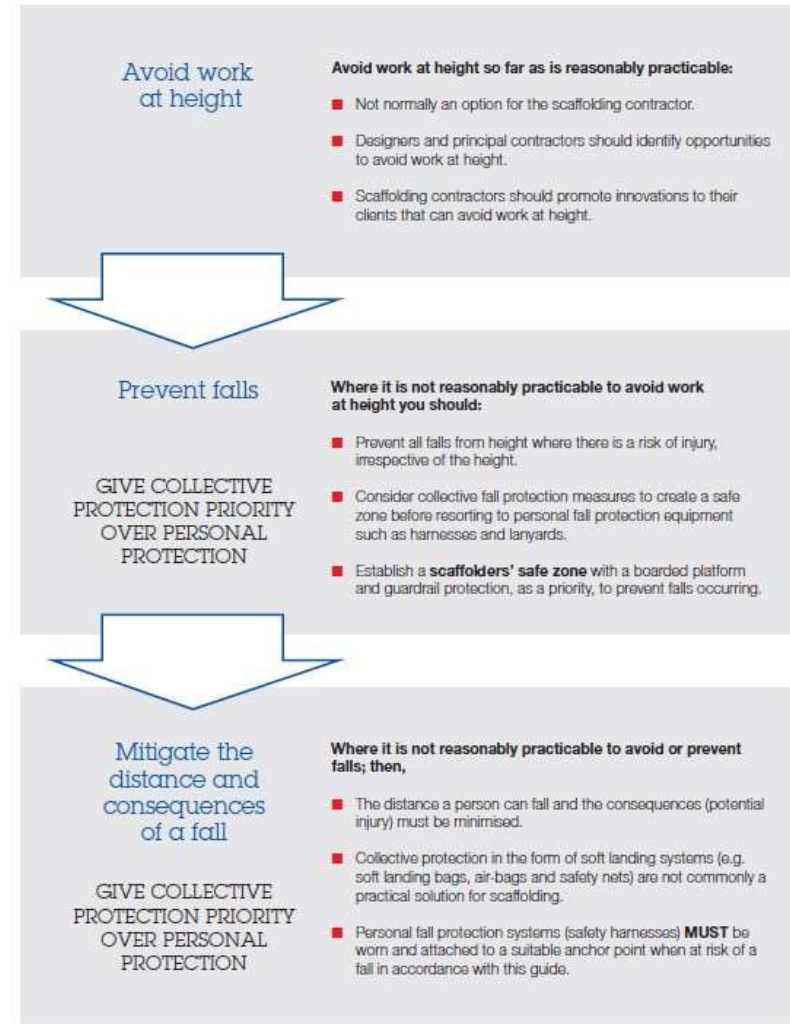


Evolution of SG4

- › Since its introduction SG4 has played a significant part in changing the culture of the industry and raising the standards of safety.
- › SG4 was initially introduced to the industry in 2000 with subsequent revisions in 2005, interim in 2008, 2010 and 2015 with the latest update SG4:22 launched in December of 2022.
- › SG4 went through quite a rapid evolution in the early days hence the need for an interim update in 2008.
- › SG4:22 is more of a fine-tuning exercise from SG4:15 rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.



- › The NASC accident statistics speak for themselves and are testament to the fact that SG4 works.
- › Since the introduction of SG4 the industry has seen an 87% reduction in the number of reported falls involving scaffolders.
- › This is despite an increase in numbers of operatives working for NASC member companies of nearly 50%.
- › The HSE continue to support the NASC SG4 working party and have worked alongside the NASC again with the latest update.
- › The guidance continues to follow the principles set out in the hierarchy of prevention and protection embodied in the Work at Height Regulations 2005.



- › The SG4 Management guide is currently available as PDF only.
- › NASC members can download it from NASC ePortal.
- › Free to download for anybody from the NASC website:
<https://nasc.org.uk/shop/>
- › A6 sized booklets (SG4:22YOU) available in 2023 (February or March).



Timeframe for Implementation



› Scaffolding Contractors

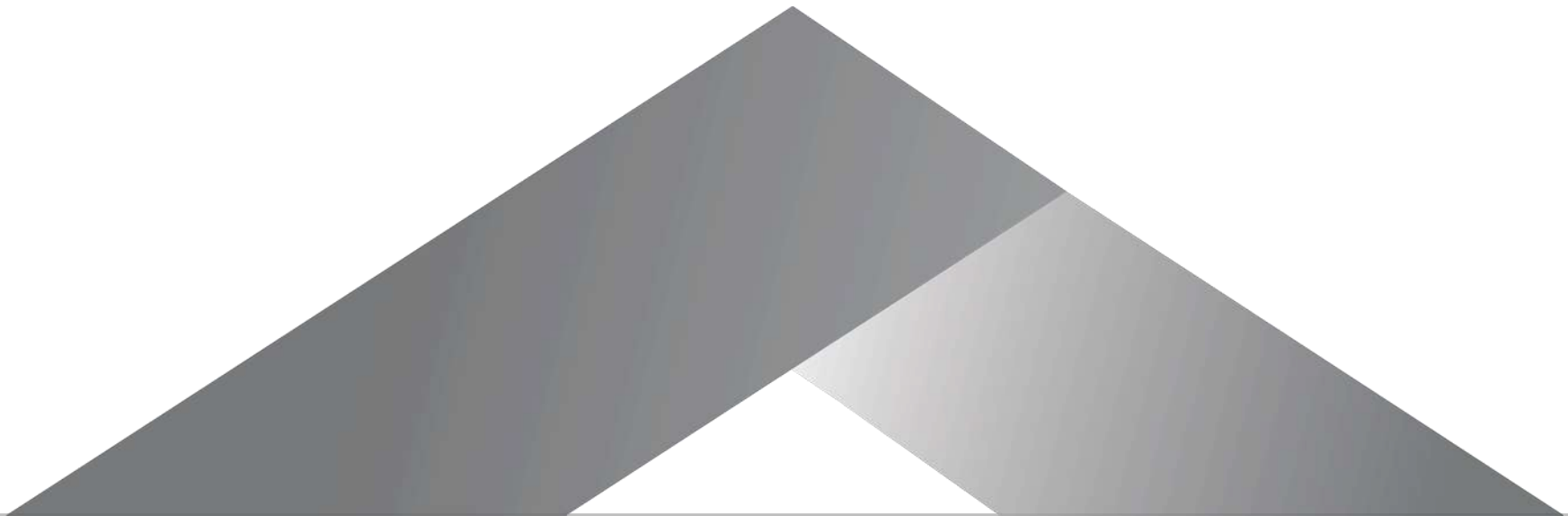
- › Scaffolding contractors will be expected to start managing work at height to the new SG4:22 standard as soon as relevant staff have been briefed/trained on the updates.
- › It is recommended scaffolding contractors include relevant changes to their site-specific risk assessment/method statements (RAMS), especially regarding fragile surfaces, system scaffolding and temporary roofs, and brief scaffold operatives on the updated RAMS with records retained.

› Scaffolders

- › It is recommended scaffolding contractors brief scaffolders on the key changes to SG4, and issue the new SG4:22 booklets when they become available in 2023 (currently targeted for February/March).



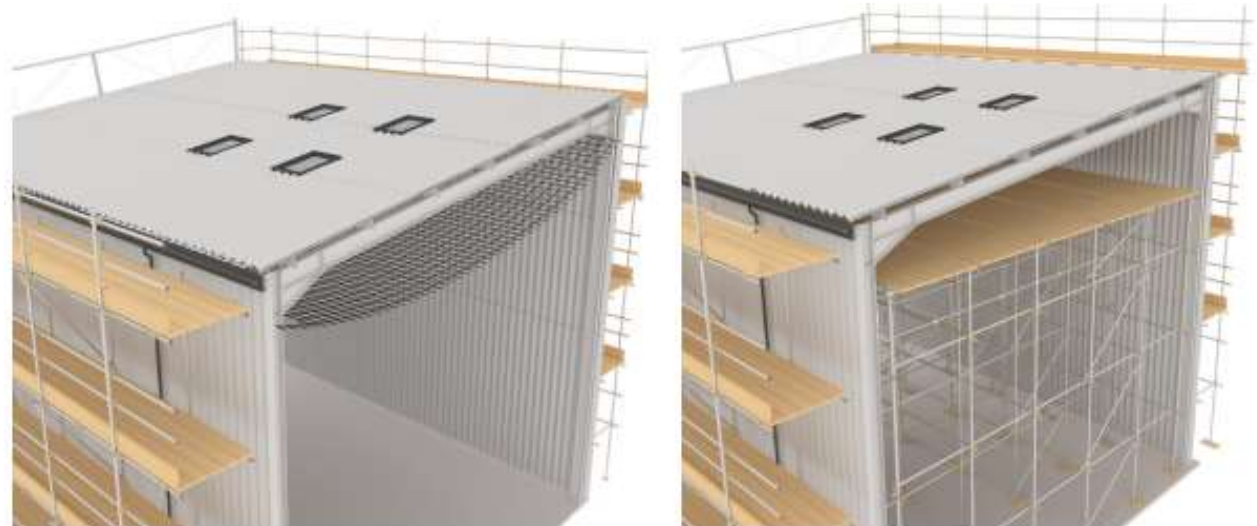
Key Updates to SG4:22



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- › Following two fatal accidents involving scaffolders working for non-NASC member companies falling through fragile roofs, the NASC has expanded the guidance for working on or near fragile surfaces.
- › This includes information for employers and scaffolders for assessing and controlling the risks associated with potentially fragile surfaces.



Industry Lessons Learned

- › Industry and accident and enforcement action learning with updated guidance and case studies.

Contractor fined for unsafe working

A concerned member of the public sent pictures of scaffolders working unsafely to the HSE.

The subsequent HSE investigation resulted in a prosecution based on the photographic evidence and the blatant safety failings. Magistrates were told there was nothing in place to prevent or mitigate them falling. HSE established that the work was poorly planned and managed, and two of the three-man scaffolding gang were lacking in training and accreditation to prove their competence.

The scaffolding contractor was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £734 in costs.

Source: HSE



Scaffolding business owner received prison sentence following fatal fall

A scaffolding business owner received a 15 month prison sentence following a fall from height accident, where a scaffolder fell 14 metres to his death. He was found guilty of a breach of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (amongst other breaches) for failing to properly plan, supervise and

carry out work at height in a safe manner. The HSE investigation established that edge protection was missing and the scaffolder was not provided with any other means to prevent or protect against a fall, such as a safety harness. Fines to the business totalled £12,000 plus costs of £5,601 under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969.



Daredevil scaffolder avoids jail



An experienced Scaffolder was seen working at a height of approximately 20m without using any fall protection measures, was spared jail after a court heard that his actions were 'a moment of stupidity'. At the Magistrates Court, the scaffolder was told that his actions... posed a risk to himself and to others during scaffolding work in a busy city centre. He was not working to established industry guidance and although he was wearing a safety harness it was not attached to the scaffolding. He made his way safely down from the scaffold, only to learn later that his actions had been spotted by a former HSE Inspector, who took a photograph. His employer had demonstrated with records that the correct safety equipment, ample training and sufficient time, so that he was not under pressure to complete the scaffolding work quickly. Speaking after the case, the Health and Safety Executive said, "This result goes to show the HSE will prosecute where we see people being put at risk or killed. We are grateful to the court for recognising that, while no one was hurt, the potential risk of harm or death was very real."

The scaffolder was given a six-month suspended prison sentence with 100 hours community service and ordered to pay £615 in costs and victim surcharge.

Source: HSE

- › Since the inception of SG4, the guidance has recommended that suppliers and manufacturers of proprietary system scaffolding are responsible for providing instructions for the safe erection and use of their products.
- › NASC has recommend that the principles of prevention and protection in SG4 should be adopted by the manufacturers.
- › One area of concern that the SG4 working party were asked to consider was the installation and removing of system decking on partially boarded structures.
- › The 2022 edition includes guidance on systems of work for handling decking whilst avoiding the need to climb the structure relying solely on personal fall protection equipment (safety harnesses).



Updated for Technical Guidance

- › The guidance has been updated to reflect changes brought about by the revised NASC technical guidance TG20:21 in 2021.
- › Examples include updated illustrations such as TG20 loading bays and associated safe systems of work.



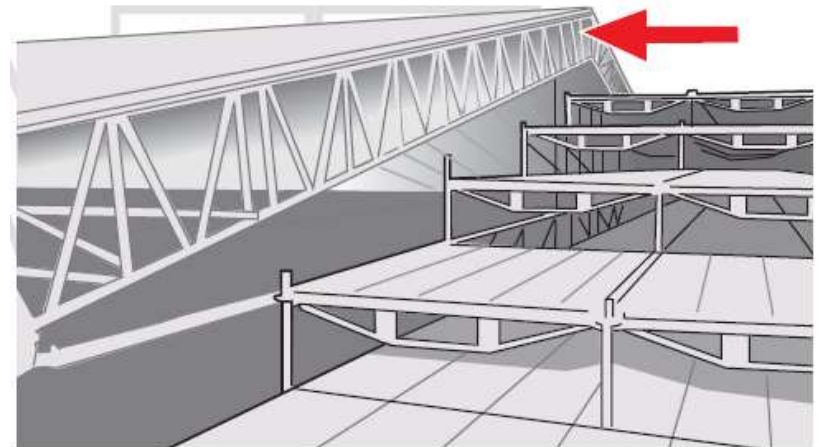
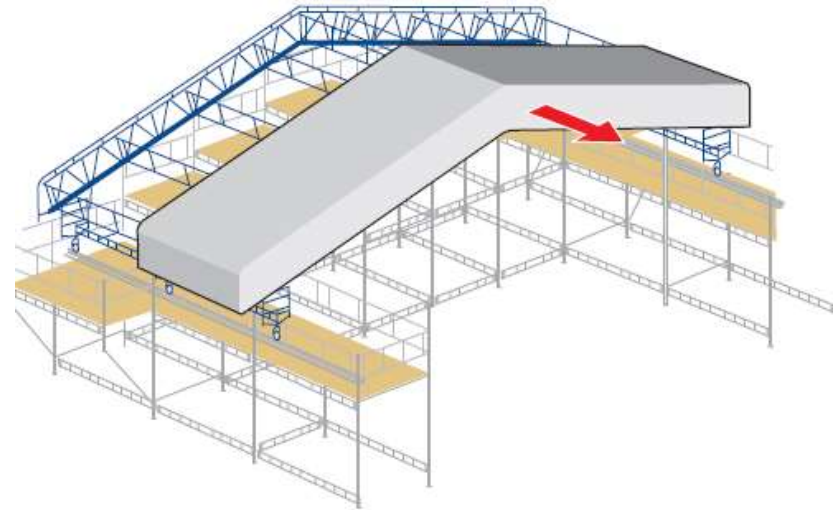
Working With Beams

- › Scaffolders continue to innovate and devise safer methods of working, one area where we reflected industry good practice are examples of safer working with beams.
- › The revised guidance includes more applications for working with beams using temporary boarding and collective protection, including the erection of gantry scaffolds.



Temporary Roofs

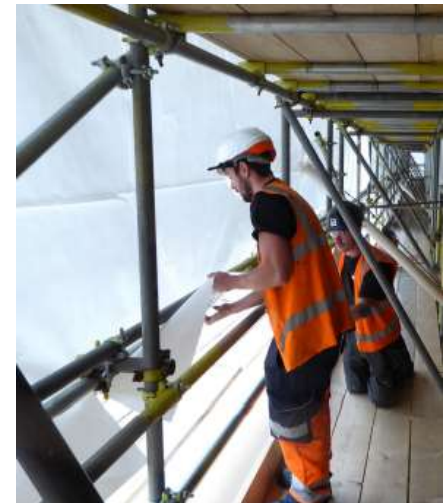
- › One area of particular concern raised by the NASC SG4 Working Group was related to the construction of traditional temporary roofs.
- › SG4 now includes some basic principles that should be embodied into the design of such temporary roofs and planning of safe systems of work by scaffolders.



Other Additions



- › With the increase in the use of 4-point chin strap type climbing type helmets in scaffolding operations, these are covered in more detail.
 - › Can offer more protection.
 - › Use must be subject to a suitable risk assessment.
 - › Requirement to meet the appropriate standards.
- › Guidance on the protection of 3rd parties working on scaffolds which may not be fully boarded, for example shrink wrap or advertising banner installation.



Questions





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BY BRAND SAFWAY

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BY BRAND SAFWAY

Your partner of choice

- › **Mark Collinson**
- › Phone: +44 7968 605222
- › Email: mcollinson@lyndon-sgb.co.uk

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