

Guide to Good Practice for Scaffolding with Tubes and Fittings.

Following discussions with our members, main contractors and interested parties, including the HSE, the NASC has undertaken to revise TG20:05 thoroughly. The revision will:

- 1 simplify the document and the approach used to make it more accessible to readers;
- 2 assume that ledger bracing is in place. Although this does not comply with the requirements of BS EN12811-1, it has now been concluded that allowing the removal of ledger bracing is not appropriate;
- 3 add other commonly used scaffolds, such as those with two inside boards; and
- 4 review in detail the engineering assumptions and tie patterns used in order to enhance the buildability of the scaffolds included in the revised document.

This work is ongoing and initial indications are that the buildability will be significantly improved.

Taking into account the feedback the NASC has received from across the construction industry and the ongoing revisions to TG20:05, the NASC view is that best practice for standard basic tube and fitting scaffolds is currently achieved by following BS5973 amended to follow the tie patterns and façade bracing detailed in TG20:05.

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.

The NASC remains committed to producing a user friendly guidance note, which will allow members to conform to the essential tenets of BS EN12811-1. It is expected that the revised document will be published before the end of 2006.

The 'legal' status of BS EN12811-1 has been the cause of some confusion amongst the wider construction industry. The Work at Height Regulations require a scaffold to be erected following a 'generally recognised standard configuration' such as BS EN12811-1 or BS5973. Such standards are a matter of contractual negotiation between the scaffolder and contractor and not a requirement of health and safety law.

In the circumstances prevailing in April 2005, the scaffolding industry was seeking reassurance from the HSE about which scaffolding standard to use, which is why BS5973 was referred to at that time. Over the medium term a migration to BS EN12811-1 is sought (following the revision of TG20 and necessary training) but until then, in the opinion of the HSE, the principles contained within BS5973 meet and will continue to meet the requirements of the Work at Height Regulations. That said, the HSE concurs with the NASC view on achieving 'best practice' by amending the tie patterns and including additional façade bracing.

Subscribers to TG20:05 will receive a copy of TG20:06 free of charge

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