

Lyndon Scaffolding plc

TOOLBOX TALK

NASC Safety Guidance Note SG4:15

1. Reason for Tool Box Talk

To remind all Scaffolders on the mandatory requirements to comply with SG4.

A part 1 scaffolder working on the M5 project in Birmingham has fallen from 3.8m and hit the ground.

Tragically he has suffered life changing injuries, fractured his spine and will never walk again.

STOP for a minute and think about this.

He fell while he was lifting boards from one platform to another and was not in a protected safe zone.

He was not clipped on.

Eddie is 56 years old, married and has 3 children. His life will never be the same nor will that of his wife and children. One momentary lapse has altered everything.

2. Intended Audience

Lyndon Management, Supervision and Scaffolding Operatives.

3. Type

Mandatory toolbox talk.

4. Record

Toolbox talk recorded on training record form, completed copy to be forwarded to the SHEQ department in Birmingham for retention.

5. Details

- ❖ Lyndon's preferred method of collective fall protection (Scaffolder's step) ensures compliance with SG4:15 through enabling the installation of an advance guardrail.
- ❖ The safety step is fixed to the main guardrail one metre above the working platform. This enables the scaffolder to erect the guardrail protection on the lift above in advance or remove them from below during dismantling whilst remaining secure within the safe zone.
- ❖ Please remember that when you are using the safety step you must be clipped on to a suitable anchor point, ideally to the back ledger, due to the risk of falling from the scaffold when using the safety step.
- ❖ Scaffolders must also be clipped on **before** climbing on to the safety step platform and must also not jump down onto the boarded platform due to the risk of board failure from impact loads.
- ❖ All Scaffolders have now been provided with a safety harness and a twin tailed elasticated shock absorbing lanyard. As a company we have provided you with twin tailed lanyards so you can be safely clipped on at all times, this gives you the ability to work safely in all situations that you will come across on site i.e. when 100% attachment is required when crabbing beams, in situ temporary roofs
- ❖ Please remember it is company policy that twin tailed lanyards must always be worn and used at all times. You must be continually clipped onto a suitable anchor point when exposed to the risk of a fall.

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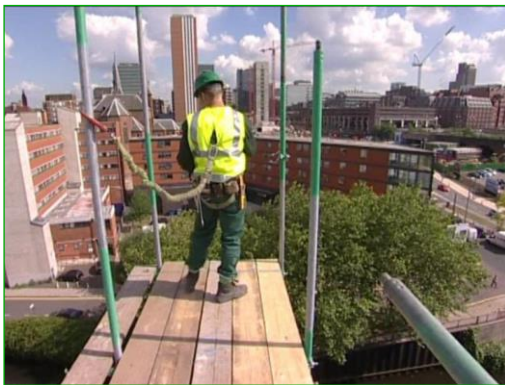
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5.1. The Unprotected Traverse



- ❖ Do NOT forget the unprotected traverse has not been permitted for many years. At no stage of scaffolding works may a Scaffolder ever expose himself to an unprotected fall.



5.2. Scaffolder's 'Safe Zone'

Scaffolders must create a *safe zone*. The *safe zone* must comprise: -

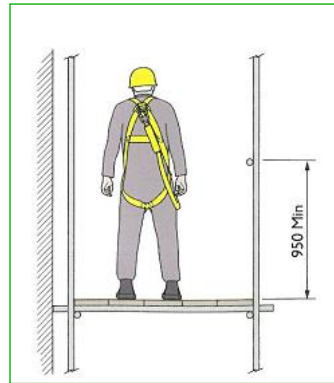


- ❖ A minimum of a single guardrail, 950 mm above the working platform on every facade from which a fall is possible.
- ❖ **Lyndon specify that the guardrail is installed at 1000mm height.**
- ❖ Guardrail protection for inside gaps (i.e. window openings) in the same manner as protection on external facades;
- ❖ Guardrails must remain in place;
- ❖ The *safe zone* must be fully boarded. However a one board gap is permitted where attachment must be made to the ledger below the working lift.
- ❖ Boards must be supported at 1.2 m; this is irrespective of any markings that may show a greater support centres i.e. 1.5 m

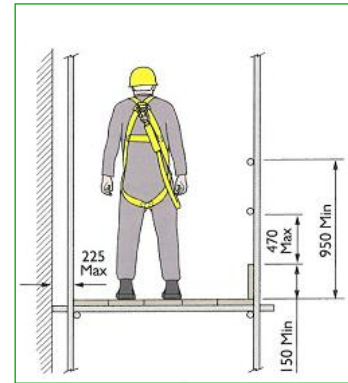
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A Scaffolder's safe zone
(stop end guardrail omitted
for clarity, Lyndon minimum
guardrail height is 1000mm)



Completed working platform
(stop end guardrail omitted
for clarity, Lyndon minimum
guardrail height is 1000mm)

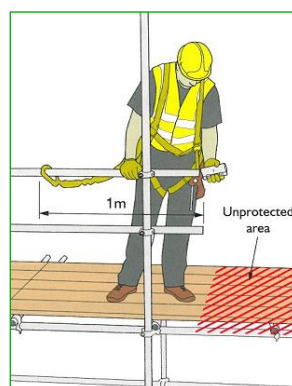
You should note – The Mk2 Step is Lyndon's default working method to install the single guard rail to establish the "Scaffolder's Safe Zone".

Where use of the step is not possible (and that means where use is *impossible!*) then appropriate fall arrest techniques must be used, bearing in mind, unprotected traversing is *not permitted!*

5.3. Exposed Edges



When working within 1m of an exposed edge, Scaffolders must attach fall protection equipment to the adjacent guardrail and ensure their lanyard cannot slide off the guardrail. (It should preferably be located on the opposite side of an adjacent standard).



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5.4. Working Beneath a Guardrail



When working beneath a single guardrail within a Scaffolder's *safe zone*' (i.e. fixing a hemp, brace or when handling materials), the Scaffolder must be clipped on to the **highest** available anchor point.



Please never forget that our mandatory company policy is that when working at height you must comply with SG4:15, there is never a valid excuse or reason for not working safely.

If you are ever unsure as to how you should be working or if you have any safety concerns our policy is very clear, you must stop work immediately and seek advice from your supervisor.

If you decide to stop work because you think what you or your work colleagues are being asked to do is unsafe you will always have the support and backing of the company.

If, however you choose to work unsafely contrary to SG4:15 and to your terms & conditions you can be dismissed for gross misconduct

The HSE can prosecute the Company and will also prosecute **you the scaffolder** for failing to comply with your legal obligations to work safely by exposing yourself to the risk of a fall.

You will be personally prosecuted by the HSE in a Criminal Court for placing yourself and others (work colleagues, general public) at risk of injury through your having worked at height unsafely.

6. **Discussion & Closeout**

- While we know falls are rare we must learn from this one.
- This is one momentary lapse.
- And don't think it can't happen to you, how many times has your heart been in your mouth if you missed your footing.
- Please don't ever risk putting yourself or family in this position.

