



## System Scaffolds

**Prepare:** Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

**Reason:** System scaffolds are being used more frequently.

**Why:** They have safety features which are particular to them.

**Outline:** This talk will cover safety features which are particular to system scaffolds and other safety features which are common to all scaffolds.



### Features Particular To System Scaffolds

- The components of most system scaffolds are fastened together by wedges or locking rings rather than loose couplers.
- Because of these methods of fastening unauthorised adaptation of the scaffold is much easier. If you are using a system scaffold:
- Do not be tempted to remove guardrails that are in the way because it is easy.
- Do not carry out other unauthorised adaptations.
- Be aware that if other operatives are using your scaffold they may have carried out unauthorised adaptations.
- Bay lengths may be different to those of tube and fittings scaffolds; you may have to be more careful where you land heavy loads.
- It is possible that on some system scaffolds purpose built loading bays are the only places permitted for the positioning of heavy loads.
- You may have to split heavy loads into smaller quantities before distributing them around the working platforms.
- The tying in arrangements for system scaffolds may be different to that for tube and fittings scaffolds. If the scaffold you are working on appears to be unstable, quickly but safely return to ground level and tell your supervisor.

### NOTES

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### System Scaffolds

**Q: If other contractors have been using your system scaffold whilst you have been away what should you do before using the scaffold?**

**Q: What would you do if you need a guardrail temporarily removed?**

#### Features Common With Other Scaffolds

- Must be erected, adapted and inspected by a competent person.
- All inspections must be recorded and a copy of the inspection report kept on site.
- Must be on a firm base and stable when erected.
- Working platforms must have guardrails and toe boards.
- All joints, whatever their design, must be secure when locked in place.
- All components must be in good condition.
- Working platforms must not be overloaded and must be wide enough for the work in hand.
- Must have sufficient ties.
- Must have a safe method of access to all working platforms.

**Q: What is often used to indicate that inspections are being carried out?**

**Q: What would you do if you became aware that a scaffold on which you were working had not been inspected in the last 7 days?**

**Do you have any questions for me?**

#### Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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