

SAFETY TOOL BOX MEETING

NO 21 - TRESTLE SCAFFOLDS

As with ladders, their use as a working platform can only be considered as a last resort, and where other suitable access cannot be reasonably provided. An assessment of risk must be undertaken to facilitate their use.

Two types of trestle scaffolds are used on construction sites:-

1. Folding wooden or metal trestles.
2. Fixed metal trestles or bandstands.

Trestles must only be on firm level surfaces. Both types are frequently mis-used and several accidents have occurred.

OBSERVE THE RULES AND PREVENT A FALL

FOLDING TRESTLES

1. Use for work of a LIGHT nature and SHORT DURATION only.
2. Examine for damaged cross bearers, broken or damaged hinges or damaged stiles.
3. Use lightweight staging for the platform: If normal scaffold boards are used support at 1.2 meter centres.
4. Do not use top of trestle.
5. Do not attempt to increase the height of the platform by the use of hop-ups.
6. Folding trestles must not be used if it is possible to fall and cause injury.
7. Platform must be at least 600mm wide.

FIXED TRESTLES

1. Ensure correct pins are used when height is raised (not reinforcement or nails).
2. If used with normal scaffold boards, space stands 1.2 meters apart (4 feet).

I have given the above talk to all men under my control.

Signed:

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3. If used with lightweight staging - check allowable loads
4. Where it is possible to fall 2 meters or more guardrails and toe-boards must be fitted. This is generally difficult and will require a scaffold.
5. Safe access - a tied ladder must always be provided.

Particular care must be taken when trestle scaffolds are erected near floor edges or on existing scaffold platforms to ensure that guarding is provided.

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