

**TITLE:** Working Platforms

**STANDARD:** 216

**ISSUE DATE:** 31 October 2015

**ISSUE No:** 001

### **Definitions (in relation to this Standard)**

Access & Egress	Includes ascent and descent
Competent	Trained, experienced and qualified
Supporting structure	Any structure, temporary or permanent, used for the purpose of supporting a working platform, including construction plant and scaffolding
Working Platform	Any platform used as a place of work, or as a means of access & egress from a place of work. It includes any scaffold, suspended scaffold, cradle, mobile platform, man-basket, trestle, gangway, gantry and stairway.



Fig. 1 Different Types of Working Platforms, but not exhaustive

### **Cross-References**

- Standard 214 – Working at Height
- Standard 215 - Scaffolding
- Standard 217 - Man-Lifts (MEWPS)
- Standard 218 - Fall Arrest & Work Restraint Systems, Nets & Rope Access
- Standard 219 - Lightweight Staging, Trestles, Ladders & Steps
- Standard 220 – Roofing, Fragile Surfaces & Openings

25252-000-GPP-GAM-00162

Revision: 001

# Working Platforms

- Standard 223 - Man-Baskets

## **Standard**

1. Any surface upon which any supporting structure rests shall be stable, and of sufficient composition to safely support the supporting structure, the working platform, and any load (people, materials or work equipment) intended to be placed on the working platform.
2. Any supporting structure shall be of sufficient strength and rigidity for the purpose it is being used, where possible securely attached to another structure, or adequately prevented from collapsing or tipping by other means.
3. All working platforms or decking should be closely boarded to their full width and free from tripping hazards. They must be kept clean and tidy; mud and sand must not be allowed to build-up on access, landings or the working platform. The working platform should be of an adequate width to suit the work being carried out, but must be a minimum of 600mm wide. As a general guide:

inspection, cleaning, painting	600mm
plastering, painting, glazing and pointing	800mm
general construction work, rendering, plastering	1050mm
block work, stone shaping	1300mm

4. When material is deposited on a working platform, a clear passage of 440mm must be maintained. A working platform and any supporting structure shall not be loaded to give rise to a collapse or deformation which could affect its safe use.
5. The space between a working platform and the structure being worked upon must be no more than 300mm.
6. All working platforms must be provided with guard rails (hand-rail & mid-rail), toe-boards and other similar barriers to prevent any person from falling where they are liable to cause injury.
7. In the case of scaffolding, the working platform surface must be of scaffold grade timber, free from splits, cuts, excess knots, paint, oil and concrete. The boards must not be painted, and must be either banded or nail-plated at both ends, and compatible with the type of proposed scaffold system. They must be a minimum of 220mm wide; although generally the boards come at 225mm. Over-lapping of boards should be kept to a minimum.
8. All working platforms that use scaffold as the supporting structure must comply with Standard 215 – Scaffolding.
9. No working platform should have a gap of more than 20mm between boards. In the case of cradles and man-lifts (MEWPS), where these have meshed floors, the mesh should be fine enough to prevent all materials from slipping through.

## Working Platforms

10. Where scaffold boards overhang transoms the minimum overhang must be 50mm, but no more than 4 times the thickness of the board. All working platform boards should be securely fixed and present no hazard of causing injury to people.
11. Guard rails must be provided at a height between 960-1140mm above the level of the platform, and at a height approximately half way between the top edge of the toe-board and the guardrail.
12. If a guard rail is removed for access of materials, fall protection is required, and the handrail must be replaced as soon as practicable.
13. All landing areas must be fitted with guard rails, toe-boards & drop bar and there should be no storage of materials at these points.
14. Toe-boards must be provided to accompany all guard rails. They must be a minimum of 150mm high, and fixed in place.
15. All ladder access to working platforms must comply with Procedure 219 – Ladders, Steps & Lightweight Staging. All ladder access to working platforms must be extended to a height of 1m (5 rungs) above the working platform, unless there is another adequate hand hold.
16. Working platforms must be erected by competent persons, and where identified by the risk assessment, designed by a structural engineer.
17. All platform access openings must be protected with an access hatch, or surrounded by a guard rail system to prevent accidental falls through the opening.

Rev.	Date	Description	Prep.	Checked	Approved
000	May-2009	Original	MS	WG	HS
001	Oct - 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> Revision	FH	FC	AK